

HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS

written by

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based on the short story

WHY I LEFT HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS

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FADE IN:

On a LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER at the plate, gripping his bat tightly. Fear in his young eyes. This is ANDY CAMPBELL (9) and it's the biggest moment of his life.

We pull back to reveal --

EXT. BASEBALL DIAMOND -- DAY

A field of players. BASES LOADED. The SCOREBOARD reads "Away: 6 Home: 5" in the bottom of the NINTH INNING. TWO OUTS and a FULL COUNT. BLEACHERS FULL OF PARENTS watching.

Andy takes a deep breath. The PITCHER stares him down with his best nine-year-old game face. Throws the pitch --

CRACK! Andy's eyes light up as he sends the ball soaring into the outfield. IT'S OUTTA HERE! The CROWD EXPLODES as Andy runs the bases with jubilation.

He crosses home and is hoisted onto the shoulders of his teammates. A moment you remember till your dying day.

ANDY (V.O.)
You know those 'what if' moments...

WE CUT BACK TO --

Andy at bat with the same fear. Here comes the pitch. But this time, HE DOESN'T SWING. Just watches it go by, frozen.

UMPIRE
Strike three!

The crowd explodes, cheering for the other team who now celebrates, HOISTING THE PITCHER UP ON THEIR SHOULDERS.

ANDY (V.O.)
It's fair to say I've had a few.

Andy walks towards the dugout, head hung low. A moment that scars you for life. His angry TEAMMATES there to greet him.

TEAMMATES
You couldn't even swing? / What a
little bitch! / You cost us the whole
season, Andy!

Andy flops down on the bench, tears filling his eyes.

ANDY (V.O.)
I mean, what if I'd grounded out? At
least that'd be respectful. Or what
if I'd gotten beamed in the face?
Sure, I'd have a bloody nose or a
fractured eye socket, but hey, at
least we would've won.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- EVENING

A dejected Andy and his mom, DAWN (late 30s), walk towards an AGING ROADSIDE DINER, a few cars parked outside. A glowing neon sign proclaims --

HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS**INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- EVENING**

A place from a bygone era. White counters. Red stools. Vintage neon signs. You can practically smell the grease, and it smells damn good. A jukebox plays a CLASSIC OLDIE. Only A COUPLE OF CUSTOMERS, and this is a good day.

Andy sits drinking a ROOT BEER FLOAT, the perfect cure for a shitty day. But he stops mid-slurp as he sees --

A young girl named PIPER FLYNN (9) eating a burger with her parents, talking with her hands in a big way as she speaks. Her laugh is infectious and carefree. She notices Andy staring and waves at him with a sweet smile.

He waves back, sipping his float, dumbstruck.

But the mug slips out of his fingers and he SPILLS HIS FLOAT ALL OVER THE TABLE. He curses under his breath, mortified as his mom helps him clean up the mess.

Piper grabs some napkins and brings them over. Andy takes them from her and THEIR EYES MEET, a foam mustache still on his face. And just that fast, he's in love.

ANDY (V.O.)

I think about a lot of what if's...
But the biggest one is what if I'd
never met Piper Flynn that day?

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Andy and Piper sit on the floor, COMICS strewn around them. Piper reads one out loud, acting out all the parts in a silly way as Andy watches, enraptured.

INT. KITCHEN, ANDY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Piper and Andy bake cookies together, creating an epic mess.

PIPER

And our restaurant will have big
comfy chairs, and board games, and
only serve hot dogs and mac n cheese.

ANDY

What about pizza?

PIPER

Okay, pizza too. And ice cream.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM -- DAY

As a TEACHER drones on, Andy sketches a COMIC BOOK SCENE OF HIM AND PIPER IN SPACESUITS KICKING ALIEN ASS. Piper glances over and Andy quickly hides it. He thinks about it for a moment, and then passes it over to her.

Piper looks at it, then smiles at him and sticks it into the cover of her notebook. He smiles back proudly.

ANDY (V.O.)
 When you think about it, every little
 what if, every little decision, can
 alter the course of your entire life.

WE CUT BACK TO -- Andy still sketching the comic book scene. Piper glances over and he hides it.

But this time HE DOESN'T GIVE IT TO HER.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy, Piper, and a GROUP OF OTHER KIDS run away, scattering around the property, hiding in different places.

SEEKER
 (eyes closed)
 Eight... Nine... Ten!

Andy climbs a tree, reaching a high branch, the dense leaves obscuring him. Only to realize Piper is hiding there too.

ANDY
 Can I hide with you?

PIPER
 Shh...

She points down below as the Seeker jogs by. Once he's gone, they let out their breath, laughing quietly. They're looking right into each other's eyes now. Piper illuminated by the moon's glow streaming through the leaves.

And in that moment, ANDY KISSES HER. A childish innocent peck. When he opens his eyes, Piper is smiling at him.

WE CUT BACK TO --

ANDY
 Can I hide with you?

PIPER
 Shh...

Once again, they wait quietly as the Seeker jogs past. Again, they let out their breath and their eyes meet.

Only this time, Andy freezes. Then looks away, missing his chance. Piper watches him, then turns away too.

ANDY (V.O.)
Every little decision...

We MATCH CUT ON ANDY'S FACE to --

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

ANDY (17) walks through the hall of a small town high school, just another face in the crowd.

ANDY (V.O.)
I mean, we've all been there, right?
We've all had what if's. And they
suck.

He passes PIPER (17) walking amidst the popular crowd. She still has that same carefree laugh. That same genuine smile. Only she's holding hands with BRAD (17), who seems to have all the natural confidence Andy lacks.

Andy makes eye contact with Piper as she passes. But all he gets in return is a polite smile.

ANDY (V.O.)
Because you know if you had just
swung that bat, if you had just
kissed that girl, your life would be
completely different...

CUT TO:

INT. FOODLAND GROCERY STORE -- DAY

A chain grocery store. Andy and KYLE (17) stack SODA CASES. Kyle may be fun to hang out with, but he's definitely a lifer in this job. Andy stands on a ladder as Kyle hands him cases.

KYLE
I think one on one, the Mountain
takes them all. Easy.

ANDY
I don't know man, I really think Snow
would have a chance.

KYLE
Wait, are we talking pre-op or post-
op Mountain?

ANDY
I was thinking freakish Mountain and
reincarnated John. You know, make it
fair.

KYLE
Oh, well if you're giving them both
their super powers and shit, then
maybe Snow would have a chance.

DARRYL (O.S.)
What the hell are you doing?!

Andy looks over to see their manager, DARRYL (20s), a guy who went straight from high school to nowhere.

DARRYL
I said re-stock the soda display, not make... Whatever the hell that is.

Only now do we reveal that Andy has made an EPIC, LO-FI JACK-O-LANTERN IMAGE out of the STACKED SODA CASES.

ANDY
You said to make it festive.

DARRYL
Customers don't want to think, customers want to buy shit and leave. How the hell are they supposed to buy a Coke Zero if it's buried under a dozen Slice boxes?

Andy and Kyle shrug. Who cares. It's awesome.

DARRYL
Take it down. Now!

He walks off. Kyle looks up to Andy.

KYLE
Sorry man. Assholes don't recognize artistic genius till after you're dead.

They begin taking down the display case by case.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON -- EVENING

Andy steps out of the store and heads down main street, if you can call it that.

The town is ONE BLOCK LONG and closed up for the night. There's "Miller's Guns." "Top Shelf Liquor." "Liquor and More" right across the street. A gas station. A boarded up bowling alley. A dumpy cafe called "Mindy's," the only restaurant in town. And an old single screen movie theater, its marquee reading, "Spider-Man 7: The Revenge."

And that's about it. A dead town you dream of escaping. A weathered sign reads, "WELCOME TO SUTTON. POPULATION: 988."

EXT. RURAL ROAD -- NIGHT

Andy walks down the lonely road past the tall trees and rolling hills. The middle of nowhere.

He passes HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS, the only sign of life out here. Andy doesn't glance up from his phone.

In the parking lot by the diner, A PERSON SUDDENLY APPEARS OUT OF THIN AIR. He glances around for a moment, then walks inside. But Andy is too engrossed in his feed to notice.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy walks up to his family's house out in the country. Lawn overgrown. Flaking paint. Not a place that feels very homey.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy steps inside the disorganized and cluttered space. A terrible INFOMERCIAL plays on TV. Andy's dad, CHARLIE (40s), snores on the recliner, looking disheveled. There's a 12-pack of cheap beer next to him, mostly empty. One still in his dad's hand, spilling out over his chest.

ANDY

Dad. Dad.

Charlie stirs with a groan.

ANDY

Shouldn't you be at work?

CHARLIE

Don't work there anymore. Kevin thought it was in the company's "best interest" to let me go.

ANDY

Just like that, huh?

He doesn't believe it for a second. Charlie sighs.

CHARLIE

He claimed I was drinking on the job. But I wasn't.

ANDY

You weren't?

CHARLIE

Naw. Well, I mean, not really. Not often. Who cares if I drink if those engines get fixed. His loss.

Charlie realizes he still has a beer in his hand and takes a swig. Andy begins picking up the empty cans from the floor.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy carries a garbage bag outside, empty beer cans clinking within. Drops it into the trash can.

He glances up to the night sky. But it's overcast, no stars peeking through the clouds. Nothing to wish upon tonight.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The walls are covered with ORIGINAL DRAWINGS of alien worlds and fantastical creatures. Bookshelves filled with SCI-FI AND FANTASY NOVELS and COMICS. A teenager who'd rather live in his imagination than reality.

Andy sits at his desk, illuminated by the glow of the tablet that he is drawing on with a stylus.

It's HIS OWN COMIC BOOK, featuring a teenage boy fighting robots on a far off world. Andy's talent is clear. He may not be a pro, but with some training, he could be.

Andy flips to the cover of his comic: THE UNFATHOMABLE ADVENTURES OF AARON ANDERS. It looks pretty damn cool.

But his eyes judge his work far too harshly. He turns off his tablet. Hesitates.

Then opens the top desk drawer and peers inside.

Nestled amongst the items is a FRAMED PHOTO OF ANDY AND HIS MOM FROM WHEN HE WAS A KID (9). They're smiling elatedly, riding a ROLLER COASTER together at an amusement park.

Now we get a good look at her. A woman full of love, with a smile that says she's an awesome mom. Or she was.

Andy stares into the image from his past... When things were so much better.

Then he closes the drawer.

EXT. RURAL ROAD -- EVENING

Andy walks home after another long day.

A car turns off the road in front of him, drawing his attention as it pulls into the parking lot of --

HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS.

Andy stops and stares, eyeing the "All-Night" on the glowing neon sign, considering.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- EVENING

The bell on the door rings as Andy walks in. It looks the same as it did when he was a kid. Timeless and nostalgic.

Andy takes a seat at the counter, glancing at the menu. Double Cheeseburgers. Chili Fries. Root Beer Floats. Apple Pie. Yeah, we're getting hungry too.

He eyes the table where Piper once sat. It's occupied by another couple now. Only a few other patrons throughout.

HARRY (60s) emerges from the kitchen, wearing a red pinstripe apron and white hat. A guy from an era when men were men.

He's rough around the edges, but if you want good advice, he's better than any bartender.

He carries four plates of food, which he sets down at various tables. Quickly grabs a pot of coffee and refills someone's cup. Hurries back into the kitchen as smoke starts rising from the griddle. A one man whirlwind.

He emerges again, toweling his hands as he approaches Andy.

HARRY

What can I get ya, kid? Looks like you had a day.

ANDY

I'll have a root beer float and a job application.

Andy folds up the menu and slides it back in place, trying to be smooth. Harry is unimpressed.

HARRY

Nice try kid, but we're all staffed up.

ANDY

(looks around)
You're the only one here.

HARRY

Like I said, we're all staffed up. But tell ya what, I'll get ya that float faster than you can say ice cream.

He grabs a frosted mug and starts filling it up.

ANDY

What about nights?

HARRY

What about nights?

ANDY

I already have a day job after school, so I'm interested in nights. It is all-night hamburgers, right?

HARRY

I work nights, and I work them alone.

ANDY

I'll do everything you don't want to do. Wash the dishes, take out the trash, whatever.

HARRY

Kid, you couldn't handle the night shift.

Huh? What does that mean?

HARRY

You know, when I was your age, I was road tripping across the country and chasing girls. Catching some of them too. You're a young guy, no reason to hang around an old joint like this.

ANDY

Just give me an interview.

HARRY

That was your interview. Look kid, every time I hire someone for nights, it doesn't end well. They always wind up leaving. Not worth the trouble. Trust me, I'm doing you a favor. Enjoy your float.

He sets down the root beer float and heads off to fill up someone's coffee. Andy sinks in his seat. But as he looks down at the float, he remembers something...

ANDY

Hey Harry!

Harry begrudgingly turns back.

ANDY

Do you remember the first time I came in here?

HARRY

A lot of people come in here.

ANDY

Well, I remember. I had just struck out three times in my little league championship game. Then my mom brought me here and got me a root beer float. I still sucked at baseball, but all in all, it wasn't such a bad day. So I figure, this could be a pretty cool place to work, because I don't know if you realize it, but you're selling a lot more than just burgers here.

(beat)

Plus, my dad's between jobs, so someone's gotta cover the bills for a few months, and this is the only place I can walk to in less than an hour.

HARRY

I hate sob stories.

ANDY

So do I. But I need this job. And you may not want to admit it, but I know you could use a hand around here.

Harry studies him. Gears turning.

HARRY
Alright, kid.

Andy's eyes widen, hardly believing it.

HARRY
Shift is from ten PM to six AM.
Minimum wage and no benefits, aside
from the best damn burgers you'll
ever eat. But one customer complains,
one customer stiffes you for the
check, and you're out. Got it?

ANDY
You're not gonna regret this, Harry!

HARRY
I'm already regretting it. You free
to start tonight?

INT. KITCHEN, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Steam bursts out of an industrial dish washer as the doors rise. Harry's hand on the handle. Andy follows him through the kitchen that hasn't been updated in decades. A burger is a burger, then and now.

HARRY
Orders come in there, go out there.
Dirty dishes go here, clean ones go
there. Then the cycle repeats itself.
You know, rocket science stuff.

ANDY
Got it.

HARRY
I like to keep the place clean, so if
you ain't serving, you damn sure
better be cleaning. Toilet flushes
like a champ but it sure don't clean
itself.

ANDY
Got it.

Harry turns to him, very serious.

HARRY
Now listen... We get a lotta funny
people in here late at night. But
they're good customers, so just take
their orders and bring their food.
Don't bother 'em.

Not quite sure what that means, but Andy nods.

ANDY
Yeah, no problem.

HARRY
I ain't messing around here, kid. Now I'm gonna repeat myself just this once 'cause it's really important. Do-not-bother-the-customers. Don't look at 'em funny. Don't tweet or bleep or instagrain or whatever the hell it is you lonely teens do these days. And don't ask 'em questions, unless it's 'What can I get ya?' or 'Would you like fries with that?'

ANDY
I got it.

HARRY
Good.

He hands Andy a red pinstripe apron and matching hat.

HARRY
Now put these on and look like a man.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

TWO TRUCKERS get up from their booth. Andy cleans up their plates, looking straight out of the 1950s in his uniform.

ANDY
Thanks, have a great night.

They grunt in response. The bell dings and Andy looks over.

Piper just walked in the door. *Oh shit.*

ANDY
Hi.

PIPER
Hey, I thought you worked at Foodland.

ANDY
I do. I mean, I just picked this up to get some extra cash. For like, concerts and stuff.

PIPER
Cool.

Andy smiles. An awkward moment.

PIPER
Can I get a table?

ANDY
Yeah. Of course. Anywhere you like.

Piper sits at a booth. Andy gets her a menu, fills up her water glass, nervousness in his actions.

PIPER
So one more year, huh.

ANDY
One more year?

PIPER
Till we can get out of this town.

ANDY
Yeah. I guess so. You got a destination in mind?

PIPER
Chicago hopefully. They've got this amazing culinary school, but it's super competitive, so I probably won't get in.

ANDY
Are you kidding? There's no way they'll reject you. Your Christmas cookies are the best I've ever had.

PIPER
(laughs)
Andy, we were like, nine.

ANDY
Doesn't matter. A great chef is a great chef. So you actually gonna open that restaurant? With the big comfy chairs and board games and mac n cheese.

PIPER
And pizza.
(smiles)
I'm thinking about calling it the Cat's in the Cradle. You know, like the song. What do you think?

ANDY
I think I'll be your first customer.

She smiles, genuinely touched.

PIPER
Thanks, Andy.

He smiles back. Wanting to say so much more.

PIPER
Hey listen, I'm sorry we haven't hung out lately. It's just, you know --

The bell on the door DINGS as Brad and some FRIENDS walk in with raucous chatter and laughs, breaking the moment.

BRAD

What's up honey. Campbell! Didn't know you worked at this shithole. Bring us some fries and Cokes, huh?

ANDY

Yeah. Coming right up.

He walks off as Brad and the others sit.

Andy watches from afar as he gets their drinks. Piper and Brad laughing, flirting. The sad part is, she looks happy. He may as well be invisible again.

He looks away, focusing on his work.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- LATER

The clock on the wall reads 1:57. The place is deserted. Piper and her friends long gone.

Andy sits alone at the counter with a burger, fries, and root beer float.

He pulls out his phone and opens Facebook. Scrolls through his photos, until he comes to an OLD PICTURE OF HIM AND PIPER AS KIDS, smiling with their root beer floats in the diner. Tagged with "#TBT!"

Andy stares at it, though it only makes him feel worse.

DING! The bell on the door jars his attention. Andy quickly puts away his phone and gets up --

And freezes on sight of the person who just walked in.

It's a SHORT GUY zipped up in a REFLECTIVE SILVER HEAVY WINTER COAT, THICK GLOVES, and SNOW PANTS. He pulls down his hood, causing ice to fall out of it, revealing FROSTED GOGGLES like he's fresh out of a blizzard.

Andy stares. *What. The. Hell.*

BLIZZARD GUY

Tab-le for une.

His accent is thick and hard to place. Maybe Russian?

ANDY

Uh, wherever you'd like.

Andy gestures to the wide open diner. Blizzard Guy looks around. Then walks all the way to the furthest corner booth.

ANDY

(sotto)

Oooo-kay...

Blizzard Guy examines the menu like it's a foreign transcript. Andy approaches with his best friendly smile.

ANDY
What can I get ya?

BLIZZARD GUY
(points to menu)
Vhat is dis ting?

Andy glances where he's pointing. *Seriously?*

ANDY
That's a... A hamburger.

Blizzard Guy grunts, not pleased.

BLIZZARD GUY
You ave frazburnsnakles?

ANDY
I'm sorry, what?

BLIZZARD GUY
Frazburnsnakle. If no, I ave twigler
wit cheeze.

ANDY
Uh... Let me check with the manager.

KITCHEN

Andy steps in. Harry is cleaning the grill.

ANDY
Do you make a Frazbur... Something?

HARRY
Frazburnsnakle? Yeah, I can make that.

Andy waits for an explanation. But Harry offers none.

DINER

Andy heads back to Blizzard Guy's table, who is eyeing a straw with extreme curiosity.

ANDY
It'll be coming right out, sir.

BLIZZARD GUY
I pay now. Money may no be good.

He sets down a handful of HEXAGON SHAPED BRONZE COINS. Andy picks one up, eyeing the medieval castle etching. *Huh?*

ANDY
I'll check with the manager...

KITCHEN

Andy steps back in. Harry is making what looks like a stir-fry of beef and fries wrapped in a pancake. A Frazbursnakle?

ANDY
Hey, do you take money from --
(checks coins)
The Republic of Marovia?

HARRY
Yeah, I can change that.

Harry takes the coins. Opens a CASH BOX sitting on a nearby shelf. Rifles around inside it, then pulls out a few similar coins and hands them back like it's nothing.

ANDY
Where's the Republic of Marovia?

HARRY
Wherever he's from.

Harry slides him the plated frazbursnakle.

DINER

Andy carries the dish out, still trying to process. He sets it down along with the change. Blizzard Guy is elated.

BLIZZARD GUY
Ah, my gratitude!

The bell on the front door dings again. Andy casually turns. And his jaw nearly hits the floor.

THREE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN (early 20s) stroll in, wearing jeans and open leather jackets, bare skin showing beneath.

WOMAN
(British Accent)
Should we just sit anywhere?

Andy stumbles, gawking.

ANDY
Sure.

They head to the counter, CASUALLY TAKING OFF THEIR JACKETS, REVEALING THEIR BARE BREASTS like it's any other Tuesday. Okay, maybe we don't see their breasts, but Andy sure does. And he looks like a kid who has never seen a pair outside of his computer screen. Let alone three pairs.

TOPLESS WOMAN
We're ready if you are.

Andy walks over, unblinking, trying to act natural. Pulls out his order pad and pen, hands trembling.

ANDY
Hi, umm... What can I get you?

TOPLESS WOMAN
I have a question. What exactly is a bay-nay-nay split?

ANDY
It's, uh, a banana... That's split.
With ice cream. And whipped cream.

TOPLESS WOMAN
But what's a bay-nay-nay?

ANDY
It's... A fruit. You know, kinda...

Andy awkwardly gestures in the air. The women stare. He moves down the counter and pulls a banana out of a cabinet.

ANDY
You know, a banana.

The women exchange baffled expressions.

TOPLESS WOMAN
This place is so weird.

KITCHEN

Andy dashes in. Harry is filling condiment bottles.

ANDY
There are three naked women out there! I mean, not full naked, but you know, top-half naked.

HARRY
What's the matter, kid? Never seen nipples before?
(glances at Andy)
Huh, guess you probably haven't.

Andy just stares, flabbergasted.

HARRY
I told ya, kid, we get some funny ones in here late at night. Just take their orders and bring their food.

Andy manages a small nod and heads back out.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- LATER

THE PLACE IS FULL NOW and bristling with energy like it's happy hour. A classic oldie plays from the jukebox. Andy juggles plates, trying to keep it together as he passes --

A table of women in SPANDEX BODY SUITS WITH FLOOR-LENGTH MULTICOLORED HAIR.

A group of men in shirts and ties EATING THEIR BURGERS USING ONLY THEIR MOUTHS. A couple SPEAKING A LANGUAGE THAT SOUNDS LIKE GIBBERISH. A STEAMPUNK ZEPPELIN PILOT who cuts his fries with a fork.

Andy tries not to gawk. Tries to keep focused. He sets a milkshake by a STONER DUDE, who takes a sip.

STONER DUDE
Dude... This is so dizzy...

ANDY
Excuse me?

STONER DUDE
It's dizzy, man...

Before Andy can ask what that means --

TATTOO GIRL
Hey waitperson!

Andy turns to a GIRL WITH ELABORATE FACIAL TATTOOS.

TATTOO GIRL
Can you play the Heebie-Jeebies?

ANDY
The who?

TATTOO GIRL
You know, the Heebie-Jeebies!

Andy hurries to the JUKEBOX. Scrolls past bands he's never heard of. "The Warlocks." "Wicked Lester." "The Silver Beatles" who look strikingly similar to The Beatles.

ANDY
What the hell...

He comes to a group with facial tattoos. THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES. Hits play. A song comes on that feels like a zanier version of 50s rock 'n roll. Tattoo Girl and several others cheer and sing along. Andy shakes his head. *What is going on?*

A DING from the door makes Andy turn. It's a guy in a HAZMAT SUIT. He pulls off his helmet and looks around with wonder.

HAZMAT SUIT
There are women here...

He hurries down the counter and sits next to a GOTH GIRL.

HAZMAT SUIT
We have to procreate! Now!

GOTH GIRL
Nah, I'm good, thanks.

HAZMAT SUIT
 Woman, please! For the future of
 humanity, we must!

Goth Girl just rolls her eyes and dips another fry.

Before Andy can react, an ADORABLE OLD MAN (80s) comes up,
 pointing to his menu excitedly.

ADORABLE OLD MAN
 Good savior on high, is this red
 thing what I think it is?!

ANDY
 A cherry?

ADORABLE OLD MAN
 You still grow fruit here! Real
 fruit!

HAWAIIAN SHIRT GUY (O.S.)
 Hey servant!

Andy rushes over to a GUY IN A GAUDY HAWAIIAN SHIRT (40s).

HAWAIIAN SHIRT GUY
 Okay, before I drop any cash, I've
 got three questions for you. First
 off, are we at war with anyone?

ANDY
 I don't think so...

HAWAIIAN SHIRT GUY
 Are humans the top of the food chain?

ANDY
 Yeah?

HAWAIIAN SHIRT GUY
 And who is the leader of this nation?

ANDY
 Uh, Donald Trump?

Hawaiian Shirt Guy stares. Then sets his menu down and WALKS
 OUT THE DOOR. Andy is stupefied.

A MAN walks by in an ELECTRIC BLUE VEST with wires sticking
 out, MEDIEVAL TIGHTS, and a rather significant CODPIECE.

MODERN MEDIEVAL MAN
 Three cheers for the great bargla!

Andy notices he left his matching BLUE HAT on the table.

ANDY
 Sir, you forgot your hat!

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy runs out with the hat, only to see the man driving away in his JUNKER OF A CAR, BLASTING BIZARRE HARMONIC MUSIC.

ANDY
Sir, wait! You forgot your --

THE CAR VANISHES INTO THIN AIR.

Andy is left jaw dropped. *That didn't just happen...*

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy steps back inside, in a daze.

CELL PHONE GIRL (O.S.)
Oh my God, she's so cute!

A GROUP OF GIRLS ogle one of their phones. Andy DOUBLE TAKES, staring at the screen, not believing his eyes --

It's a video of one of the girls playing with a BABY STEGOSAURUS as if it was a puppy.

CELL PHONE GIRL 2
That's the most adorbs diny I've ever seen!

KITCHEN

Andy flies in. Harry's making a sundae with extra cherries.

ANDY
Okay, what the hell is going on?!

HARRY
Just take their orders and bring their food, just like I told ya.

ANDY
It's kinda hard to take their orders and bring their food when they're disappearing into thin air and exchanging videos of their pet dinosaur! Which looked awfully real I might add! I mean, what in the world is going on with these people?!

HARRY
I'll tell you after you've worked here a month. Think of it as your benefits kicking in.

ANDY
Okay, if that's how you want to play it, I'll make you a deal. If you tell me what's going on right now, I swear I won't tell a soul.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

But if you don't, I'm gonna Instagram the shit out of this place. And then you're gonna have to deal with a lot more questions.

HARRY

Can't tell ya, kid. You're not ready.

Andy meets his stern gaze. Then pulls out his phone and snaps a photo of the strange looking food on the counter.

HARRY

What are you doing with that thing?

Andy turns to the dining area, snapping more photos.

ANDY

Hashtag frazburnsnakles. Hashtag vanishing cars. Hashtag pet dinosaurs. Hashtag topless women, that'll get some views --

Harry tries to grab his phone.

HARRY

Wait! Don't do that! Stop! Stop!! Alright, fine! I'll tell ya, but don't say I didn't warn you. God damn Millennials...

He lets out an exasperated sigh.

HARRY

Okay. All them people out there are just people, no different than you or me. They're even from around here.

(beat)

You know... Just not *here*, here.

ANDY

You mean, they're like... Time travelers?

HARRY

Don't be a moron. Time travelers go forward and back, that's make believe shit, everybody knows that. These folks go side to side.

Andy stares. *What did he just say?* Harry sees the look on his face and sighs, annoyed. Puts a burger on the grill.

HARRY

Okay, let's say this burger here is our universe.

ANDY

Our universe?

HARRY

(puts on another burger)
And this other burger is another universe. Maybe one where women don't wear shirts or disco never died.

(puts on more burgers)
And all these burgers are more universes. Maybe in one Gore beat Bush for real, or Elvis is still alive, or Napoleon didn't lose at Waterloo. You get the idea.

(puts a pickle on a burger)
Now let's say this pickle here is a traveler, meaning he's in the know, and he's feeling adventurous. So he jumps to another universe --

He tosses the pickle onto a different burger.

HARRY

And another universe. And another.
And so on and so forth with more pickles and a lot more burgers.

Harry keeps moving the pickle to different burgers.

ANDY

But... How many universes are there?

HARRY

How would I know, kid? I just make the burgers.

ANDY

But... This doesn't make any sense...
How does no one know about this?!

HARRY

What's there to know? Funny people come into diners at four in the morning. Everyone knows that.

ANDY

But what are they doing *here*?

HARRY

Maybe they just like my burgers.

(off Andy's look)

Okay, turns out there's some funny business with the Earth's magnetic fields that I'm told only allows people to jump universes in a few spots around the world. One of the spots happens to be right here, where I happened to build my diner. Next nearest spot is a coffee shop in Montana, but I hear the owner is a real dick. There's also one in Tokyo, which pretty much explains Japan.

(MORE)

HARRY (CONT'D)

I don't know how it works at all the other places, but here, folks can come in late at night, have a burger, pay with whatever they got, and be on their way without anyone like you judging them for lookin' funny.

ANDY

You're telling me that Harry's All-Night Hamburgers is... A hangout for parallel universe travelers?

HARRY

Hangout, rest stop, airport, burger haven. We're kinda a one-stop shop.

Andy's head might explode.

HARRY

Look kid, I know it's a lot coming at ya right now, but do me a favor. Don't freak out.

Andy stares at the burgers, sizzling on the grill...

ANDY

How do you go to one of these parallel universe... Places?

HARRY

Now listen to me very carefully kid. You do *not* want to jump to a parallel universe.

ANDY

Why not? They sound incredible.

HARRY

Oh sure, they sound incredible. Till you find out it's a one way ticket. No one knows how many universes are out there, so you don't get to pick which one you want to go to. It's a totally random jump every time. Once you step into that multiverse, there's no coming back home again.

Andy takes this in, hardly able to process.

HARRY

There? Satisfied? Now go take your break and pick your jaw up off the floor. Then when you come back, you can take their orders and bring their food, just like I told ya. That's all you gotta worry about.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy steps outside and looks around the empty parking lot. But his eyes widen as --

One by one, TRAVELERS APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR, carrying RETRO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES. Some look like Walkmans, others like PalmPilots, Game Boys, or pagers. Lighting up with enough bells and whistles to make them futuristic and cool.

The Travelers take in their new surroundings, getting their bearings. Then casually walk past Andy into the diner.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy steps back in, gazing around at the patrons with awe.

Several sing along to a song that sounds like "The Piano Man" only they're singing "The Trumpet Man." Others toast with exotic drinks. A few are dancing to the music with strange movements we've never seen before.

A smile spreads across Andy's face. *Un. Fricken. Believable.*

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy walks through the hall, seeing the world around him in an entirely new light. Everything looks so *ordinary*.

INT. FOODLAND GROCERY STORE -- DAY

Andy and Kyle stock soda cases. One after another.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON -- DAY

Andy walks down main street, past the liquor stores and boarded up bowling alley. The town is so dead and empty.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Andy makes tweaks to his Aaron Anders comic book. But his heart's not in it. His mind somewhere far away...

KYLE (PRE-LAP)

Man, I wish that was my life...

INT. KYLE'S BASEMENT -- NIGHT

Andy and Kyle sit on the couch, staring at a tablet. ON SCREEN - A YOUNG DJ performs in front of a packed crowd.

KYLE

I mean, look at him. He's our age.
Can you imagine how much play he gets
every night. What a way to live...

But Andy's not paying attention. Something else on his mind.

ANDY
Do you ever think... What if I could
just start over?

KYLE
What, like in a video game?

ANDY
Sort of, but... In a different game.
A better game.

Kyle ponders this.

KYLE
Sometimes I think what if I quit the
grocery store, cashed all my money
out of the bank, and just said screw
it. I'm gonna learn to DJ, I mean
really learn. See where it takes me.

ANDY
So why not say screw it?

KYLE
I don't know...
(beat)
I was just kidding around, man.

He goes back to watching the video.

But he wasn't kidding around and Andy knows it.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy pours coffee for a TRENDY GIRL (20s) with a MOSTLY
SHAVED HEAD AND PIGTAILS, wearing ALL WHITE LEATHER.

TRENDY GIRL
What do you call this stuff again?

ANDY
Coffee.

TRENDY GIRL
Coffee...

She takes a sip, really experiencing it.

TRENDY GIRL
Mmm... Tastes like gnobbers.

Andy nods, no idea what that means. Lingers a moment.

ANDY
Hey, is it worth it? You know...
Traveling and stuff.

TRENDY GIRL
Do it! If you're even thinking about
it, do it.

ANDY

Really?

TRENDY GIRL

Flip yeah! Best decision of my life. Just last week, I was in a universe where Kurt Cobain never died and I got to see Nirvana in concert. Before that, I found a gig teaching kids how to ride woolly mammoths. I've gotten drunk with neanderthals. I mean don't get me wrong, some universes suck. You just gotta keep your finger on the button when you show up someplace new, and be ready to say flip this and move on to the next one.

ANDY

What about the whole you can't go home thing?

TRENDY GIRL

I didn't have anything to go home to. Do you?

Andy ponders that very question.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy walks in to see his dad passed out in front of the TV again. A TWELVE PACK nearby, all the cans empty. Andy sighs, and then leans the chair forward. Charlie stirs, groggy as Andy helps him up.

CHARLIE

You know, it's mom's birthday today.

ANDY

I know, dad.

CHARLIE

I just wanted to have a toast.

He's very wobbly as Andy leads him up the stairs.

MASTER BEDROOM

CHARLIE

Let's sing her happy birthday.

ANDY

No, let's get you to bed.

CHARLIE

Come on, she'd like that. *Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Dawn...*

Andy lies him down and Charlie is practically out as his head hits the pillow. Andy looks him over with sadness.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Andy scrolls through Piper's Facebook feed. Piper and Brad at a football game. A selfie of them kissing. Making silly faces with friends at a party.

He clicks through to the same old photo of HIM AND PIPER AS KIDS, smiling with their root beer floats in the diner.

He looks around his room, taking in the state of his life.

Then opens his drawer to look at the photo of him with his mom. He stares at her smiling image.

And gives a small nod.

Then he shuts off his tablet. Puts on his jacket. Takes the lid off a shoe box and grabs the WAD OF CASH from inside. Pockets half of it.

INT. HALLWAY, ANDY'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Andy peers into his dad's room, where Charlie snores.

ANDY
(sotto)
Bye dad.

He sets the other half of his money on Charlie's dresser.

Then walks away down the hall, zipping up his coat.

EXT. RURAL ROAD -- NIGHT

Andy walks down the lonely road.

He sees Harry's All-Night Hamburgers up ahead, glowing brightly in the darkness. A beacon of hope.

Andy stops and stares at it, considering the road ahead.

With a deep breath, he proceeds.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy picks up two root beer floats and carries them over to a booth occupied by TWO SURFER DUDES (20s) who look like they're backpacking their way from universe to universe.

SURFER DUDE
I'm telling ya, this place was so
konky. The kids didn't even have
parents. They all came out of test
tubes and were like, raised by the
village. Nicest people I ever met.

ANDY
Oh yeah, I've been to that one.

They turn to him.

SURFER DUDE

Seriously? Dude, what are the odds?!
You travel often, man?

ANDY

Oh yeah, all the time. This gig is
just temporary. You know, save up
some cash for the next trip.

SURFER DUDE 2

So what's the spoinkest place you've
ever been?

ANDY

The spoinkest... Oh man, that's
tough. I've been to so many...
Spinky places.

SURFER DUDE

Yeah, but what's the one where you're
just like... Where the snap am I?

ANDY

Umm...

Think of something Andy...

ANDY

Okay yeah, so there was this one
where the country was called
Westeros... And there were all these
warring families, like the Lannisters
and the Starks and the Targaryens...
Everyone kept killing each other.
Literally, everyone died... And there
were these dragons --

SURFER DUDE

(points to friend)

Dude, I told you there was one with
dragons! We just haven't found it yet!

ANDY

Yeah, and there was this other one
with all these elves. We hiked up a
big mountain in this country called
Mordor. And we got into this huge
fight with a bunch of orcs.

SURFER DUDE

Holy giester! I feel like such an
amateur now.

SURFER DUDE 2

You're like a seasoned veteran of
inter-dimensional travel.

ANDY

Yeah, it's sorta my passion.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)

(beat)

The thing is, my device, transporter, thing-y... Whatever you call it where you're from... It got fried.

SURFER DUDE 2

Oh no...

ANDY

Yeah, it totally sucks. This stormtrooper shot it to pieces. You guys don't happen to know anyone who's like, selling one do you?

SURFER DUDE

I can totally hook you up. I've got an extra Jumper I keep as a backup. It's old but in totally bonk condition.

ANDY

How much would it cost?

SURFER DUDE

Oh man, I don't know, it's always so hard doing currency exchanges.

(beat)

How about you buy me dinner?

ANDY

You want to trade an inter-dimensional Jumper... For a hamburger?

A long moment. The Surfer Dude looks self-conscious.

SURFER DUDE

Sorry man, didn't mean to insult you. How about for a side of fries?

ANDY

Okay. Yeah, that's totally fair.

INT. KITCHEN, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy walks in, tucking something into his pocket.

HARRY (O.S.)

You alright, there?

Andy turns to see Harry looking on with prying eyes.

ANDY

Oh, yeah, of course. Totally fine.

(pulls out order pad)

Hey one of those guys asked for his burger charred to a crisp. Wasn't sure if you do that.

HARRY

If he wants a hockey puck, I can make a hockey puck.

ANDY

Okay, cool.

But Harry still eyes him, sensing something.

ANDY

(thinking fast)

Listen, you mind if I take my fifteen now? Feel like I could use some fresh air to wake up a little.

HARRY

Sure, kid. Whatever you need.

Andy takes off his hat and apron and steps out the back. Harry eyes him the whole way.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy looks over his shoulder as the door closes. No more prying eyes. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out --

The PARALLEL UNIVERSE JUMPER. He gazes down at it. It's pretty retro, kind of like an old Motorola Razr, with a TRIPLE INFINITY LOOP LOGO on the front. Andy is skeptical.

Until he flips it open, revealing a HIGHLY ADVANCED interior with HOLOGRAPHIC BUTTONS, whirring with ENERGY. The center button GLOWS BRIGHT RED with an IMAGE OF A HUMAN FIGURE AND AN ARROW POINTING FORWARD.

Andy stares at it, mesmerized by the possibilities...

His eyes rise to the vast stretch of nothing around the diner. Back to the Jumper in his hand.

ANDY

(sotto)

What if...

He takes a breath. Then PRESSES THE GLOWING RED BUTTON...

And nothing happens.

Andy looks around, but everything is the same. He flips the Jumper open and closed. Shakes it. Hits it. Nothing.

He sighs, annoyed. Heads back inside.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy walks in the front door and stops in his tracks.

THE PLACE IS EMPTY. Harry looks up from behind the counter where he's polishing float mugs.

HARRY
What can I get ya, kid? Looks like
you had a day.

ANDY
Where did everyone go?

HARRY
Eh, slow morning. Means you can sit
wherever you'd like.

ANDY
What are you talking about?

HARRY
What am I talking about? What are you
talking about?

ANDY
Harry, I work here.

HARRY
Harry? Name's Billy.
(off Andy's look)
Oh I get it... You just popped your
cherry.

He chuckles as Andy realizes...

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

Andy dashes out the door. Looks up at the neon sign --

"BILLY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS"

ANDY
Holy shit...

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [UNIVERSE B] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy's jaw hangs open as he walks back in the door.

ANDY
Where am I?

HARRY [BILLY]
In my diner. Now you gonna order
something? I got rules against
loitering.

ANDY
Yeah, no, wait a minute...
(suddenly remembers)
Are we at war with anyone?

HARRY [BILLY]
War? Whatcha talkin about, kid?

ANDY
You know... War. Fighting, killing,
mass destruction, that sort of thing.
Are we doing that with anyone?

HARRY [BILLY]
That sounds terrible. Why the hell
would anyone do that?

ANDY
I... I don't know.
(beat)
Okay, this is probably gonna sound
stupid, but are humans at the top of
the food chain?

HARRY [BILLY]
I don't know what you're used to, but
around here, we don't put our food on
chains. We put it on plates.

ANDY
Uh, alright... And who is president?

HARRY [BILLY]
Olivia Davis. Splendid lady.

ANDY
Whoa. A female president?

HARRY [BILLY]
They have male presidents in your
universe? That sounds like a recipe
for disaster.
(guffaws)
Sorry kid, but I gotta ask. What
kinda messed up world do you come
from?

ANDY
A very messed up one apparently.
(beat)
So, uh, what am I supposed to do now?

HARRY [BILLY]
Whatever you want. So either order
something or hit the road.

Andy pulls out his wad of cash.

ANDY
Any chance you could exchange this?

HARRY [BILLY]
Sure. If you order something.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [B] -- MORNING

Andy steps outside, sipping a milkshake as he eyes his new currency. Just like dollar bills, except the presidents are all women. He tucks them away.

ANDY

Don't freak out... Don't freak out...

The sun is just starting to rise over the horizon, illuminating the road before him, leading into town.

He takes a breath, steadying his nerves. Then slides the Jumper into his pocket and ventures forth into the great unknown.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON [B] -- MORNING

Andy comes around the bend onto main street. But nothing can prepare him for this. The buildings look the same.

But it's AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PLACE.

This small town is ALIVE WITH PERSONALITY and BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY. Everyone dressed in VIBRANT COLORS with LOUD HAIRSTYLES. Everything feels fresh, stylish, and hip. The type of town you'd dream of living in.

Andy looks around, a fish out of water, lost in this strange new world. It all feels so familiar... Yet so different.

Top Shelf Liquor is now "The Health Hut." Liquors and More is now "Organic Originals." The old bowling alley is "Xavier's Escape Maze." The gas station is a HYDROGEN STATION. The restaurant is "Wildcraft Artisanal Delicacies." The movie theater marquee reads, "THE LEGEND OF ZELDA."

ANDY

No freaking way...

A LADY walks out a door, carrying flowers and WALKING A PIG. It oinks cheerfully at Andy. He stares as they pass, then backs up to see the sign above the shop. Miller's Guns is now "MILLER'S FLOWERS."

He shakes his head, astonished.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY [B] -- DAY

Andy walks down the same hall, but now it's overloaded with spirit. COLORFUL DECORATIONS for the school and teams. STATE CHAMPION BANNERS for all different sports. Every student dressed with the same over the top spunk as in town.

But that's not the strangest thing of all...

Everyone makes eye contact with Andy as he passes, smiling and shouting out greetings, like HE'S THE POPULAR ONE.

STUDENTS

Campbell! Didn't know you were back!
/ Been loving your Telegram feed,
man. / Dude, how's your trip been?

Andy ad libs hellos, unsure what to make of his new social status.

And then he sees her...

PIPER. Walking with Brad and their same group of friends. Like everyone else, her CLOTHES ARE BRIGHTER, HER HAIR ZANIER. But she still has that same sparkle in her eyes. That same smile. The same girl he fell in love with.

But this time when she sees Andy, she stops in her tracks. A smile explodes across her face.

PIPER

CAMERON?! OH MY GOD!!

Cameron? But before Andy can even react, PIPER RUNS TOWARDS HIM, JUMPS INTO HIS ARMS --

AND PLANTS A HUGE KISS ON HIS LIPS.

HOLY. SHIT.

When she finally pulls away, Andy's eyes are still closed. Floating on a dreamy cloud. He opens them to see Piper smiling, inches away.

Yes, that really just happened.

PIPER

I can't believe you're here! You said you weren't gonna be back for another two weeks.

ANDY

Yeah, well, I --

PIPER

Wait... Did you come back early just to surprise me?

ANDY

Yeah, uh... *Surpriiiiise.*

He smiles sheepishly. She squeals and hugs him tightly, kissing him over and over.

Andy notices BRAD standing nearby, watching enviously. Andy can't help smirking.

PIPER

Oh my God, look at your hair... What did you do to it?

ANDY

Oh, uh, I was in such a hurry to see you so I didn't do anything to it.

PIPER

That's so sweet.

The BELL RINGS and students hurry towards their classes.

BRAD

Come on, Phoenix.

(glares at Andy)

Not all of us have private tutors on the road, you know.

Andy mouths "Phoenix?" Nor does the rest make sense to him.

PIPER [PHOENIX]

Sorry, I gotta zip. But Zayden's having people over tonight, we should totally go!

ANDY

Zayden?

(no idea)

Oh yeah, totally.

PIPER [PHOENIX]

Dizzy. I'll come pick you up after school. I'm so excited. This is gonna be the best night ever!

ANDY

Absolutely. Best night ever.

She kisses him again with sweet, romantic, bliss.

PIPER [PHOENIX]

I love you so much.

ANDY

I love you... Too.

Piper runs off to class. Leaving Andy in the now empty hall, looking like he just won the lottery. *Did that really just happen?!* He lets out a dumbfounded laugh.

Then walks off with a skip in his step.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- DAY

Andy strolls towards his house. The lawn is freshly mowed. Blooming flowers in every bed. A complete turnaround from the home he knows. This universe just keeps getting better.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- DAY

The door opens as Andy steps in.

ANDY

Whoa...

The decorations look pulled from the pages of an interior decorating magazine. Polished, bright, and colorful.

ANDY

Hello?

No answer. Andy hesitates, then --

ANDY

Mom?

Still no answer. Andy heads upstairs, exploring further.

ANDY'S BEDROOM [B]

Andy steps in... And he can't believe his eyes.

It's the UPSCALE VERSION OF HIS ROOM. The same sort of sci-fi and comic stuff he had in his own room, but it's all ELEGANTLY FRAMED, making it look far more sophisticated. Sleek furniture. Fancy drawing desk. A cool dude lives here.

Then he sees the framed covers of THREE AARON ANDERS GRAPHIC NOVELS. The first we recognize from the comic that he was working on. But the rest he hasn't even imagined yet.

ANDY

Son of a bitch...

His eyes drift to the COLLAGE OF PHOTOS on the wall.

They tell the story of a completely different life. Nine-year-old Andy on the shoulders of his teammates after winning the championship game. On the HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM. At a SCHOOL DANCE WITH PIPER. His hair is styled with more pizzazz. His clothes bolder. Screaming confidence.

ANDY

Who is this guy?

He goes to the drawing desk, touching the computer and opening a web browser. Types in Facebook.com. "WEBSITE NOT FOUND." Strange... Google.com. "WEBSITE NOT FOUND." He checks the browser history. Sees MYSPACE at the top.

ANDY

Seriously?

He clicks it, bringing up his MySpace profile, showing a picture of the other him wearing an Aaron Anders T-Shirt.

He scrolls down, seeing photos of the other him posing with FANS HOLDING UP HIS COMIC. Posts about BEING ON A COMIC BOOK SIGNING TOUR. Pics of LONG LINES OF FANS waiting for his autograph. The other him hanging out at HIP PARTIES. In CITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. Having the time of his life.

Andy stares in awe at this alternative life.

Then he hesitates, remembering something. He opens his desk drawer and peers inside --

Nestled amongst the items is a framed photo of NINE-YEAR-OLD ANDY POSED WITH HIS MOM.

BUT THIS PHOTO IS DIFFERENT. Instead of being on a roller coaster, it's Andy in a homemade superhero cosplay costume with his Mom smiling next to him.

Andy stares, confused. He doesn't remember this.

Then he HEARS THE DOOR OPEN downstairs.

ANDY

Oh shit!

Andy gets to his feet and goes to the mirror. He tries to readjust his hair, struggling to make it look like the guy in the photos. Not nearly enough product. Not happening.

FOOTSTEPS COMING UP THE STAIRS. Andy curses under his breath, giving up on his hair. He steps out into the --

HALLWAY [B]

And sees his DAD approaching. HE LOOKS LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. Clean-cut, styled hair, dressed in a slick, colorful BUSINESS SUIT.

ANDY

Dad?

CHARLIE

Cameron?!

HE YELLS EXCITEDLY and greets Andy with a big hug. Andy is so shocked he lets out an awkward yell of his own.

CHARLIE

What are you doing home?! What happened to the signing tour?

ANDY

I, uh, decided to come back, just for the weekend. Dad, I can't believe this. You look great!

CHARLIE

Great?

(chuckles)

That one of those hopster words you offspring use these days?

ANDY

No, I mean, you look dizzy. Really dizzy. Were you just at a job interview or something?

CHARLIE

Yeah, was interviewing a candidate for the vice president of international sales gig. My little startup just keeps growing and growing.

He chuckles. Andy can't mask his astonishment.

CHARLIE

Hey, you okay Cam? You look a little... Off. Something happen?

ANDY

What? No.

CHARLIE

You're not sky, are you?

ANDY

Sky?

CHARLIE

It's okay if you're sky. I'm not judging.

ANDY

No, dad, I'm not sky --

CHARLIE

You can tell me. It's not like I didn't do that stuff when I was your age too, you know.

ANDY

I'm not sky. I'm just... Happy. I really missed you.

CHARLIE

I missed you too, son.

He pulls Andy in for another hug. This time, Andy hugs back.

CHARLIE

Does Phoenix know you're home?

ANDY

Phoenix?

(remembering)

Oh yeah. We're going out tonight.

CHARLIE

She's one lucky girl, you know. Gets to date my successful, driven, creative genius of a son. I'm so damn proud of you, Cam.

Andy manages a smile. A lot to live up to.

INT. BATHROOM, ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- DAY

Andy steps into the bathroom, closing the door. He stands over the sink, taking breaths.

His eyes rise to his reflection in the mirror, seeing someone who is clearly not the Cameron these people know.

ANDY

Okay... You can do this. You're Cameron. Just for tonight. Or maybe a few days. Until he gets back. It'll be like a vacation. A vacation from your life. Yeah.

He stands up a little taller.

ANDY

You're Cameron.
(more confident)
You're Cameron.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM [B] -- DAY

Andy looks over the photos of Cameron on the walls, studying his clothes, his hair. He opens the closet door, revealing an assortment of BOLD, MULTI-COLORED CLOTHES. Andy smiles.

ANDY

You're Cameron.

The sound of KNOCKING takes us into --

INT. ENTRYWAY, ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- NIGHT

The door opens, revealing Piper, dressed like a fashionista walking a European runway. Her eyes light up as she sees --

CAMERON. Or rather, Andy dressed as Cameron. Wearing a bright outfit that belongs at an ultra hip nightclub. He even has an intellectual looking BERET. The spitting image of his alternate self.

PIPER [PHOENIX]

Wow. You look so dizzy...

ANDY

Thanks. You look pretty dizzy yourself.

The BEEPS AND WARBLERS of electronics take us into --

INT. PIPER'S CAR [B] -- NIGHT

A fully autonomous hydrogen car that perfectly befits this incredible universe. Piper sings along with the SONG on the radio, dancing as the car drives itself. Andy feigns singing along, but clearly doesn't know the words.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
This song always makes me think of
that night...

ANDY
(no idea)
Yeah... Me too...

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Remember what we were doing during
this part?

ANDY
Uh... How could I forget?

Piper laughs. Then starts belting out the chorus. Andy just hums along with the melody.

Suddenly Piper's PHONE RINGS. ANDY'S PHOTO pops up on the car's huge dashboard display. "Cameron Calling..."

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Wait... You're calling me?

ANDY
Don't answer it!

Andy fumbles with the touchscreen, rejecting the call.

ANDY
My phone got stolen. This guy's been
prank calling everyone and texting
dick pics. Don't open anything from
me. Ignore all my texts and calls.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Ew. Why haven't you changed your
number to a new phone?

ANDY
I will. I just... I had to see you
first. I couldn't wait any longer.

Piper's heart melts.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Ohh Cameron... I wish we never had to
be apart.

ANDY
Believe me, I feel the same way.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Well we're together now and the night
is infant. Time to get our groove on.

ANDY
Our groove?

EXT. BACKYARD, HOUSE [B] -- NIGHT

This isn't your typical house party. It's a RAGING EDM RAVE in someone's backyard. There's a professional stage setup on the back porch, ripping out pulsing music. Laser lights. Fog. TONS OF BODIES grinding and gyrating. If this is a high school party in this universe, we never want to graduate.

Piper drags a dumbfounded Andy into the mayhem.

ANDY
Who are all these people?

PIPER [PHOENIX]
You don't honestly think Zayden could keep a private show secret, do you?

The lights flare, and Andy gets a better look at the stage. That's when he sees --

KYLE is the one rocking the TURNTABLES, headphones pressed to his ear as he cues up the next track. Lasers spell out ZAYDEN in the fog above him. Girls scream his name.

ANDY
(sotto)
Zayden?

Kyle notices Andy and points to him, pumping his fist excitedly. Andy waves back, trying to comprehend.

ANDY
This is insane.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
I know, right?! Come on, babe, dance with me.

She starts DANCING IN A BIZARRE WAY. To us, it looks ridiculous, like she's doing her best tree-in-the-wind impression. But that's what everyone is doing. Andy tries to mirror them, but looks like a guy at a junior high dance.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
(yelling in his ear)
What's wrong?

ANDY
Nothing. Best night of my life.

Piper eyes him, sensing something awry.

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
(on microphone)
Yo yo yo, take a breath party people,
and lend me your ears.

The beat fades so Kyle's voice can be heard.

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
 I want to thank you all for coming out tonight. But I especially want to thank my main man, Cam, who traveled a long way to be here. He's the most talented guy this town has ever produced, and I wouldn't be up here if it wasn't for him.

The crowd cheers. People start turning to Andy.

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
 You see, a couple years ago I was pretty lost. Then Cam told me, "Hey Zayden, just say screw it, man. Stop worrying and start living." So I did. And look where I'm livin' now!

More cheers. People slap Andy on the back like he's a hero.

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
 So if you're feeling a little unsure of yourself, if you're too scared to follow that dream, you should take Cam's advice. Raise your hands up high and just say... SCREW IT!

ALL
 SCREW IT!!

Raucous cheers. Andy is astonished by the scene.

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
 Now the only thing more dizzy than Cam's advice are his moves on the dance floor.

Andy freezes. *Oh shit...*

KYLE [ZAYDEN]
 So this one's for you, Cam. Take us home, buddy!

Kyle brings up the beat and PLAYS A DANCE SONG THAT NO ONE IN OUR UNIVERSE HAS EVER HEARD BEFORE. All eyes shift to Andy, opening up a circle around him, waiting for him to bust a move. Piper watches excitedly.

But Andy just stands there, petrified. The music is bumping but he's not moving. People exchange confused glances.

Andy's wide eyes lock on Piper, who stares at him expectantly. She mouths "What's wrong?"

It's now or never...

ANDY
 (sotto)
 Screw it.

Andy snaps to the beat, one arm flying straight out, the other locking behind his head. And he starts doing... No he's not... Oh my God, yes he is. He's doing THE SPRINKLER!

But to this crowd, it looks fresh and new. They've never seen anything like it before.

CROWD

Look at that move! / That's so bonk!
/ That dude must be sky as a kite!

They all start MIRRORING HIS MOVES! Everyone is doing the Sprinkler! Piper steps up next to Andy, dancing with him. And that's all it takes for him to push it further.

He breaks into the SHOPPING CART, dramatically grabbing imaginary items. Everyone adjusts, following his lead. He switches to the ROBOT, stiffly moving his body. The crowd imitates him, loving it.

Kyle pushes the music, getting ready to let the beat drop --

And when it does, Andy busts out FREAKING GANGNAM STYLE!

The crowd goes nuts, jumping and screaming! They all try to keep up, everyone doing Gangnam Style for the first time.

To us, it looks absurd. But to this crowd, it's brand new and cutting edge. And Andy is at the center of it all.

The music comes to an emphatic close and EVERYONE ROARS! They swarm around Andy, everyone wanting a piece, everyone wanting a picture. Piper wraps him up in a BIG KISS.

It is by far, the best night of his life.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- NIGHT

The lights are off. Piper's hydrogen car pulls to a stop.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy and Piper step into the dark house, whispering and laughing. They head upstairs. Sounds of a TV nearby.

Andy glances into Charlie's room to see him watching a nature documentary, sipping a green smoothie. Charlie notices Piper and gives Andy an 'atta boy' gesture.

Piper takes Andy's hand and leads him down the hall. Oh shit, this is getting real. Andy tries to stay calm. Tries to play it cool.

ANDY'S BEDROOM [B]

Andy turns a lamp on.

PIPER [PHOENIX]

I've missed being here.

ANDY
I've missed having you here.

He nervously fumbles with the light, trying to set a romantic mood. But Piper takes his hand.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Hey... It's fine.

She turns him to face her, looking deep into his eyes.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
It's perfect actually.

Andy nods.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Babe, you're trembling.

ANDY
Sorry. I just...

He hesitates. Something holding him back.

ANDY
What if we move somewhere else? Like Chicago. Tomorrow. No goodbyes, no farewell parties, we just say screw it and go. I could open a comic book store. You could open your restaurant. Just the two of us.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Open my restaurant?
(laughs awkwardly)
Cam, I haven't cooked since I started that fire when we tried to bake Christmas cookies.

Andy blinks hard, trying to process this.

ANDY
Yeah, I know, I meant...

PIPER [PHOENIX]
I'm happy with you here, in Sutton. I don't ever want to leave.

ANDY
I don't ever want to leave either.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
So stop worrying so much about the future. Tonight is ours.

She steps back and slides off the straps of her dress, letting it fall to the floor, revealing her bra and panties.

ANDY
Holy shit.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
I've been waiting so long for this.

ANDY
Not as long as I have...

She kisses him passionately, TAKING HIM DOWN ONTO THE BED, UNLEASHING HER PENT UP SEXUAL AGGRESSION. Andy is like a baby gazelle being mauled by a lion. She rips off his shirt. Unfastens his belt and yanks off his pants.

Then her PHONE RINGS. She glances at it.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
That's so weird. You're calling me again.

Andy silences it. Piper smirks. They get right back to it.

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

A second car pulls up next to Piper's. The door opens --

And ANDY STEPS OUT, carrying a travel bag.

Only it's not Andy. It's CAMERON. The alternative version of Andy who belongs in this universe. The one this Piper is in love with.

Cameron eyes Piper's car, confused why it's here, but intrigued. He heads towards his house.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

Andy and Piper are getting hot and heavy under the covers.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
You wanna get a sheath.

ANDY
A what?
(thinks fast)
Oh, yeah.

He stumbles out of bed, wearing only his boxers, looking around. *Where the hell are the sheaths?* He opens a drawer. No. Tries another.

PIPER [PHOENIX]
They're not in the bathroom anymore?

ANDY
Sorry, just thought one might...

He darts into the connecting --

BATHROOM [B]

Andy turns on the light. Starts rummaging through the medicine cabinet. The door drifting half closed behind him.

HALLWAY [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

Cameron comes up the stairs. He stops at Charlie's door, seeing his dad engaged in a yoga routine. Very zen.

CAMERON
Surprise! Thought I'd swing home for
the weekend before my next signing.

Charlie relaxes out of his pose, confused.

CHARLIE
Are you sky right now?

CAMERON
What? No, not at all.
(laughs nervously)
Hey, what's Phoenix's car doing here?

CHARLIE
Last I checked, she was in your room,
champ.

CAMERON
Really? Cool.

Cameron heads down the hall, towards his bedroom. Charlie watches, not sure what to make of it.

BATHROOM [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

Andy frantically searches through drawers, looking for that elusive tool that will let him live his dream.

He freezes as he hears the BEDROOM DOOR CREAK OPEN --

ANDY'S BEDROOM [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

Cameron steps in, noticing the mood lighting. Piper is under the covers, scrolling through her phone, her back to him.

CAMERON
Hey...

PIPER [PHOENIX]
(not looking back)
Hurry up. I'm naked.

CAMERON
Seriously?

Cameron quickly starts removing his clothes.

BATHROOM [B] -- SIMULTANEOUS

Andy is frozen behind the door. He cringes as he hears Cameron climbing into bed with Piper. Then there's kissing. And sensual groaning. *What a nightmare!*

PIPER [PHOENIX] (O.S.)
Aren't you forgetting something?

CAMERON (O.S.)
What? Oh yeah.

PIPER [PHOENIX] (O.S.)
You kept me waiting that long and forgot to get a sheath?

CAMERON (O.S.)
Relax, babe. Ten seconds.

ANDY HEARS HIM APPROACHING. *Oh shit! Oh shit!* He jumps into the shower and ducks behind the curtain as --

Cameron pushes the door open.

WE STAY WITH ANDY behind the curtain. Holding his breath. Tense as hell.

HE HEARS CAMERON open the cabinet, move stuff aside, pull out a box, and remove a crinkly wrapper. Andy squeezes his eyes closed, but he can't ignore the sounds.

The light turns off. Andy opens his eyes. He steps out of the shower and tiptoes to the half-open door. Ever so slowly, he peers around it into the bedroom. He can't see them from his vantage point. But then he hears --

SQUEAK, SQUEAK, SQUEAK from the bed. Gradually building. Along with growing purrs of pleasure. Panting breaths.

Andy might just cry. This is torture. Absolute torture.

SQUEAK, SQUEAK, SQUEAK.

His eyes dart about, desperate. He glances at the bathroom window, the quickest means of escape.

Then he realizes something even more awful.

He glances back into the bedroom. His pants are on the floor with HIS PARALLEL UNIVERSE JUMPER STICKING OUT OF A POCKET.

SQUEAK, SQUEAK, SQUEAK.

Andy takes a breath. Steels himself. He's gotta get it. It's the only way out of this hell.

Keeping his eyes to the ground, he crouches down and silently slips into --

ANDY'S BEDROOM [B] -- CONTINUOUS

Still wearing only his boxers, Andy slowly advances towards his pants and the Jumper he so desperately needs.

He can hear things heating up in bed. But he forces himself to keep his eyes focused on the Jumper. He's almost there. He reaches out for it --

And PIPER MOANS deeply.

Which is too much for Andy. He has to sneak a glance. Just for a second. His eyes rise --

We don't see what he sees. We only see the maelstrom of emotions on his face. First it's awe...

Followed by soul crushing sadness.

His eyes sink closed. He grabs his pants and the Jumper. Quickly moves towards the door --

CREAK! Under his foot. Andy's head snaps around to look at the bed -- Just in time to see PIPER'S HEAD TURN.

She's looking right at him, crouching there with his pants in hand... BUT HER MIND CAN'T PROCESS THE SIGHT. She slowly turns back to Cameron, on top of her with his eyes closed, still thrusting. Back to our Andy...

And PIPER SCREAMS!

So loud and shrill that Andy jumps, losing his balance and falling over, dropping his pants. The Jumper and his wallet tumble away. Cameron turns and sees a stranger in his room.

CAMERON
WHAT THE FLIP?!

Andy grabs his Jumper and wallet, and BOLTS FOR THE DOOR, leaving his clothes. Cameron leaps out of bed after him --

HALLWAY [B]

Andy runs down the hall. Charlie comes to his door.

CHARLIE
Cameron? What are you --

Andy races by. Closely followed by buck ass naked Cameron (good thing we're respectable and only see waist up).

CHARLIE
Cameron?!

ENTRYWAY [B]

Andy races down the stairs, Cameron right behind him.

CAMERON
Come back here, you creeper!

Andy's almost to the door, but Cameron leaps and TACKLES HIM. They roll around, struggling, until --

They're face to face. Cameron freezes, staring in horror.

CAMERON
You're... You're...

Lights snap on. CHARLIE RACES DOWN THE STAIRS.

CHARLIE
What's wrong?! Who is --

He suddenly see two identical versions of his son. Now it's his turn to SCREAM. Beyond mind blown.

Andy knees Cameron in the groin and throws him off.

ANDY
Sorry...

He gets to his feet and runs for the door. Grabs the knob --

PIPER [PHOENIX]
Cameron?!

Andy looks back. She's at the top of the stairs in a sheet, looking like she's staring at a ghost.

Andy struggles to find the words to explain...

But there's no explaining this... HE DASHES OUT THE DOOR.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [B] -- NIGHT

Andy sits at the counter, nursing a milkshake. The look of a man who had the world in his hands and then lost it. Still just in his boxers, which is perfectly normal around here.

He sits next to a SKEAZY DUDE (40s) in a wild suit. Triangle-shaped tie. Zippers. A literal rainbow of colors.

SKEAZY DUDE
These things happen all the time.
Couple years of therapy and they'll
begin to believe it was some kind of
shared psychosis. Or clones. Lots of
people fall back on clones.

ANDY
What if we'd just stayed at the
party? Or what if we'd gone to her
house instead? Everything was going
so great...

He slurps his milkshake, sucking it dry.

A YOUNG WAITER (18) picks up Andy's empty glass.

YOUNG WAITER
Get you anything else?

ANDY
Yeah, I need a root beer float.

YOUNG WAITER
A what?

ANDY
You know, a root beer float.

YOUNG WAITER
Let me check with the manager...

The waiter heads for the back. The Skeazy Dude finishes his burger, licking his fingers with big slurps.

SKEAZY DUDE
So you really love this girl, huh?

ANDY
Yeah, but she doesn't love me. She loves the other me. Who's a lot like me, just... Better.

SKEAZY DUDE
Then there's a pretty simple solution to your problem. Kill yourself.

Andy blinks... *What the what?*

SKEAZY DUDE
I mean, don't kill yourself. Kill *your-self*. Your other self.

ANDY
Isn't that like... Murder?

SKEAZY DUDE
I like to think of it as recycling a photocopy. Done it a bunch of times myself. Got it down to a science.
(lowers his voice)
The trick is... Don't try to bury the body or chop it to pieces. That always gets messy. All you gotta do is take the other you's body out into the woods behind the diner, put your parallel jumper thingy in his hands, and make his finger press the button. Then poof! Sayonara photo copy and you're living the life you dreamed of.

ANDY
That sure sounds like murder.

SKEAZY DUDE
Sounds more like love to me.

Andy ponders that as the waiter returns.

YOUNG WAITER
 Manager's making you one of those...
Things you asked for.

ANDY
 Thanks.

The Skeazy Dude leaves cash on the counter.

SKEAZY DUDE
 Tell Billy thanks. Burger was great!
 (to Andy)
 All I'm saying is think about it.

He heads for the door, leaving Andy alone at the counter.
 Harry comes out of the back with Andy's root beer float.

HARRY [BILLY]
 Sorry for the confusion. Kid's new.

ANDY
 I get it.
 (beat)
 Hey, hypothetically speaking, if
 someone were to "recycle his
 photocopy," would that have any...
 Cosmic ramifications?

HARRY [BILLY]
 You mean like blowing up the space
 time continuum?

ANDY
 Yeah.

HARRY [BILLY]
 No idea. But I know I'd sure feel bad
 about it for the rest of my life.

Andy sighs heavily, dejected.

HARRY [BILLY]
 Heard you say you love this girl.

ANDY
 Yeah.

HARRY [BILLY]
 So stop dicking around here and go
 find the her that loves you back.

Sage advice, as always.

ANDY
 Right.
 (beat)
 I don't suppose you know any place
 around here where I could crash for
 the night?

HARRY [BILLY]
Got a few cots in the basement. Just
don't make a regular thing of it.

ANDY
Of course. And um... Any chance
you've got some spare clothes lying
around here too?

HARRY [BILLY]
Sure, kid. Check the lost and found.

CUT TO:

A STORAGE CLOSET door opens, REVEALING AN EPIC HODGEPODGE OF
VASTLY DIFFERENT ITEMS FROM VASTLY DIFFERENT UNIVERSES. A
helmet with horns tumbles out past Andy's feet. He sighs.

ANDY
Oh boy...

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- MORNING

Andy steps out wearing a leather shirt and polka dot
polyester pants. He pulls out his Jumper.

ANDY
Alright multiverse. Let's see what
you've got.

He presses the button --

BEGIN PARALLEL UNIVERSE SEQUENCE

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy saunters through a new version of his high school,
trying not to look self conscious in his outfit. He stands
out dramatically from everyone else, who all wear COLORFUL
ROBES MADE OF FEATHERS. Then he sees --

PIPER AND KYLE MAKING OUT by their lockers.

Andy rolls his eyes and heads back the way he came.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Another universe. Andy now in a BLACK LEATHER BONDAGE
OUTFIT, which fits in perfectly with everyone's style. Then
he sees --

PIPER MAKING OUT WITH A GIRL by their lockers.

ANDY
Are you kidding me?!

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy wears an EVENING GOWN in a universe where the girls
wear suits and the guys wear dresses.

He stops when he sees Piper talking to her friends in an ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LANGUAGE. She turns to him with a smile.

PIPER
Gunta fallye enrimi dor, Eglaton?

Andy blinks, clueless. Piper's brow furrows.

PIPER
Gunta fallye enrimi dor?

ANDY
Uh... No hablo...

Peace out.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy wears a LEOPARD PRINT BODY SUIT, just like everyone else. He sees Piper walking alone in the opposite direction. He smiles and waves at her --

ANDY
Hey!

CRACK! PIPER DECKS ANDY IN THE FACE, FLOORING HIM.

PIPER
How do you explain this, Nova?!

Piper holds up her phone. On it, ANOTHER ANDY is kissing ANOTHER GIRL as she takes a selfie.

ANDY
What? That's not... That's not me!

PIPER
Oh and I suppose that wasn't you in all the other ones either. Go poof yourself you poofing anuspit!

She storms off, leaving Andy on the ground, stunned.

ANDY
Damn it!

EXT. GRAVEYARD -- DAY

Andy stands over a tombstone. AN ETCHING OF PIPER'S FACE on the grave with the words, "Once Met, Never Forgotten..."

He tosses up his hands with frustration and walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy stands across from VARIOUS VERSIONS OF HARRY.

ANDY
Are we at war with anyone?

HARRY [VARIOUS]
The Canadians. / The United Nations.
/ Who aren't we at war with?

ANDY
Are humans at the top of the food
chain?

HARRY [VARIOUS]
The locusts can eat a man alive. /
We've got nothin' on the giant
tarantulas. / You've never seen a
tiger eagle?

ANDY
Who is the leader of this country?

HARRY [VARIOUS]
Genghis Khan the 147th. / Sarah
Palin. / Amazon.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS: MORE NEON SIGNS - "Alfie's All-Night Fish & Chips." "Mikey's All-Night Meatballs." "Stevie's All-Night Submarines." "Frankie's All-Night Frazburnsnakles." "Tommy's All-Night Twiglers." One in all Chinese characters.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Andy steps into DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF HIS BEDROOM.

- One with photos of him playing a bizarre musical instrument.
- Another covered with revolutionary political artwork.
- Another is a Buddhist's dorm, with a mat on the floor, burning incense, and flourishing plants.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Andy opens his desk drawer. In each one, A DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE PHOTO WITH HIS MOM.

- Andy and his Mom at a sporting event.
- Andy and his Mom on an exotic beach.
- Andy and his Mom opening presents on his birthday.

She always has the same face, the same smile. Just a different look and situation.

Andy picks up the last photo and SMASHES IT ON THE DESK IN FRUSTRATION, BREAKING THE FRAME. Then slams the drawer shut.

END PARALLEL UNIVERSE SEQUENCE

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy walks in, looking exhausted. At his wit's end. Harry comes out of the kitchen in his usual apron.

HARRY [GARY]
Looks like you had a --

ANDY
Yeah Harry or Frankie or Tommy or whatever your name is. I've had a day. I've had a lot of days. Now before I drop any cash, I've got some questions for you. First off, are we at war with anyone?

HARRY [GARY]
Iraq, Afghanistan, North Korea, Syria. You know, the usual.

ANDY
(not caring)
Cool. And are humans at the top of the food chain?

HARRY [GARY]
Yup. We'll kill anything, and eat it too.

ANDY
And who's the leader of this country?

HARRY [GARY]
Kanye West.

Andy stares, stunned. Harry starts laughing.

HARRY [GARY]
I love it when that line works.
(laughs more)
Kanye's in jail, kid. Elizabeth Warren is President. Lovely gal. Now you gonna keep asking questions, or you gonna order something?

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [UNIVERSE C] -- MORNING

Andy steps out, sipping a milkshake, glancing around. Trees. Electricity. Sunshine. Looks promising.

ANDY
Please be okay...

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE [C] -- DAY

Andy walks towards the house. Fairly well maintained but nothing fancy. So far, so good.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE [C] -- DAY

Andy steps inside and glances around. Everything looks pretty dang normal.

ANDY
Finally.
(beat)
Hello? Dad?
(beat)
Mom?

No answer. He heads upstairs.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM [C] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy freezes in the doorway...

IT'S NOT HIS ROOM.

It's a girl's room. Pink, frilly comforter on the bed. Posters of hot pop stars. Along with tons of photos and knickknacks from the life of a teen.

What the... ANDY

He opens the desk drawer. The FRAMED PHOTO OF ANDY'S MOM is in its place, but in this version, she's smiling next to a YOUNG GIRL at a science museum exhibit.

Andy's eyes rise to the FAMILY PHOTOS around the room. In every one, his dad poses with the same girl. But ANDY'S NOT IN ANY OF THE PHOTOS.

No . . .

ANDY

The BATHROOM DOOR KNOB TURNS behind him --

Oh shit... ANDY

A TEENAGE GIRL (17) STEPS OUT IN A TOWEL, drying her hair. She freezes when she sees Andy standing there. Her name is IRIS and to her, Andy is a stranger in her bedroom.

Hey... ANDY

IRIS SCREAMS IN TERROR. She runs back into the bathroom and
slams the door.

ANDY
No wait, it's okay! It's nothing like
that!

The sound of the FRONT DOOR OPENING.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
Hey Iris, I'm home, sweetie --

The shrillest scream imaginable from the bathroom.

CHARLIE (O.S.)
IRIS!

ANDY RUNS FOR IT --

HALLWAY [C]

Only to see CHARLIE coming up the stairs, WIELDING A GOLF CLUB LIKE A BROAD SWORD.

ANDY
Wait, I can explain --

Too late! Charlie SWINGS THE GOLF CLUB AT HIM! Andy ducks just in time as THE CLUB SMASHES THROUGH A FRAMED PHOTO!

ANDY
I'm your son!

He swings again! Andy barely dodges as THE CLUB SMASHES THROUGH DRYWALL.

Charlie swings again! Andy ducks and races for the stairs. But HE TRIPS, TUMBLING DOWN THEM. Charlie gives chase, still brandishing his club.

CHARLIE
Get outta here, you sick pervert!

ANDY RUNS OUT THE DOOR. And just keeps running.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON [C] -- DAY

Andy walks through town, realizing he recognizes all of the businesses. "Miller's Guns." "Top Shelf Liquor." "Liquors and More" across the street. "Mindy's Cafe." The same movie theater marquee, "Spider-Man 7: The Revenge."

Everything looks exactly the same as his home universe.

ANDY
This doesn't make any sense...

Then he freezes, eyes locked on --

PIPER, inside Mindy's cafe. Aside from her waitress uniform, she looks just like the Piper he knows.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy steps up to the hostess's podium. Piper heads over. Her name tag reads "Addison."

PIPER [ADDISON]
Hi, breakfast for one?

Andy waits for her to recognize him.

But she just stares back, confused by his lack of response.

Welcome to the Twilight Zone.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- NIGHT

Andy sits at the counter, drinking his usual root beer float. CLARENCE (40s) sits next to him, wearing a florescent track suit that is way better than anything from the 80s.

ANDY

It was like she'd never seen me
before in her life...

CLARENCE

If it makes you feel any better, my
wife stabbed me once when I crawled
into bed with her. Granted, I didn't
know we weren't married in that
universe. Never hurts to ask first.

He sets down some foreign bills and stands to leave.

CLARENCE

Well I'm off to work. Good luck
finding that girl. Or the right
version of the girl, that is.

ANDY

Off to work? You mean you live here?

CLARENCE

Yeah, got tired of looking for the
next best thing, so decided to settle
down. I know this universe isn't your
cup of joffee, but compared to where
I'm from, it ain't too shabby. Don't
have to wear a gas mask to step
outside, and you can still make
babies without a bunch of scientists
in your pants. So I can't complain.

(beat)

But I'm sure you'll find another
universe where you're happy again.

He walks out, leaving Andy at the counter. Harry steps up.

HARRY [GARY]

Get you another float?

ANDY

Just the check. I've gotta get out of
here.

HARRY [GARY]

What's the rush, kid? You just won
the lottery.

ANDY
How did I win the lottery?

HARRY [GARY]
Sounds like you're the one and only
you in this universe. You have any
idea how many folks would kill to
stumble into a place like that?

ANDY
They'd kill to find a universe where
they didn't exist and their dad tried
to murder them?

HARRY [GARY]
No, they'd kill to find a universe
where they could be whoever they
wanted to be. That's freedom if I've
ever heard it.

He sets the check down and heads for the back.

Andy watches him go, suddenly seeing his situation in a new
light. Full of possibility.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- MORNING

Andy strolls back into the cafe... But there's something
different about him now. The look on his face. The way he
walks. He just seems confident. And downright cool.

Piper recognizes him this time. Seems a little odd to see
him two days in a row.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Staying to eat this time?

ANDY
Yeah, figured I'd give it a shot.
Hey, can I ask you a question. Why
aren't you in school?

PIPER [ADDISON]
I'm on my gap year.

Obviously. Andy plays along.

ANDY
Oh. Cool.
(beat)
Me too.

He smiles and Piper returns it politely.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Cool. Right this way then.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- LATER

Andy peruses the menu. The food all looks nice and normal.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Any questions about the menu?

ANDY
Yeah, what do you recommend?

PIPER [ADDISON]
Umm, well the California scramble is our most popular.

ANDY
Forget what's popular. What do you like?
(checks her name tag)
Addison.

Not your average customer, and she likes that.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Well, that depends. I'm always a sucker for a cinnamon roll and a latte... Unless I'm in the mood for pancakes, then I'm all about the blueberry flapjacks with scrambled eggs and sausage... Or if I'm just looking for a little slice of heaven, the crunchy Luxembourg toast with a side of bacon is kingdom come.

ANDY
Then it's decided. Crunchy Luxembourg toast with a side of bacon.

PIPER [ADDISON]
(smirks)
We'll get that right out for you.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- MORNING

Another day. Andy sits in the same booth. He smiles at Piper as she approaches.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Any questions about the menu?

ANDY
I'm feeling the blueberry flapjacks with scrambled eggs and sausage.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Coming right up.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- MORNING

Yet another day. Andy at the same booth again. Now Piper seems amused by this.

ANDY
Seems like a cinnamon roll and latte kind of morning.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Be right out.

He's growing on her.

INT. MINDY'S CAFE [C] -- MORNING

Another day. Andy twirls his menu, doesn't even need it.

ANDY
I was considering the California
scramble since it's so popular... But
I just can't get my mind off that
Luxembourg toast with a side of
bacon, so I'll have to go with that.

Piper can't help but like this guy.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You got it.

ANDY
Oh, and Addison?

She turns back. Andy takes a breath, then --

ANDY
What would you say to hanging out
sometime after your shift?

That actually sounded smooth. She smiles coyly.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You got a name? "Dude from the cafe"
sounds kinda sketchy.

ANDY
Maddox.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Maddox... It's nice to meet you.

His turn to smile.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- EVENING

Andy and Piper sit at a booth, eating frazburnsnakles and drinking root beer floats. The place is mostly empty. None of the late night crowd just yet.

PIPER [ADDISON]
(eating)
This is incredible. What do you call
it again?

ANDY
A frazburnsnakle.

PIPER [ADDISON]
I've never even heard of it.

ANDY
Neither had I. Till I started
traveling.

This gets her attention.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Where have you been?

ANDY
You know... India, Mexico, China...

Harry refills their water glasses, rolling his eyes.

ANDY
... Australia, Cuba, Italy, France --

PIPER [ADDISON]
France?

ANDY
(realizing)
Oh, yeah, um, it's this cute little
island off the coast of... Russia.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Damn. Sounds like you've been
everywhere.

ANDY
Yeah, I figured it's a big universe,
may as well explore it. You know, see
what's out there. Meet new people.
Have new experiences. Try new food.
Stop worrying and start living.

He takes another bite, playing it cool like it's no big
deal. And it's working. Piper's intrigued.

PIPER [ADDISON]
So where's the coolest place you've
been so far?

ANDY
If I had to choose just one... The
Republic of Marovia. It's this tiny
little country. It's not even on most
maps. But it's got this incredible
vibe. Everyone wears these really
bright colored clothes, and their
hair is just wild. And they have this
incredible music that you'll never
hear anywhere else. Like there was
this one song --

He hums the melody of the song that he danced to at Kyle's
raging party. Drumming his hands on the table, getting into
it. He sounds ridiculous, but it's making Piper smile.

PIPER [ADDISON]
That sounds awesome.

ANDY
It was awesome. For a while. But it
just wasn't home.

PIPER [ADDISON]
So where is home?

ANDY
I guess I'm still looking for it.

PIPER [ADDISON]
I think we all are.
(beat)
But I don't get it. What's someone
like you doing in a town like Sutton?

ANDY
Just passing through. Till I figure
out the next big adventure.

A moment between them as they look into each other's eyes.

ANDY
What about you? You work at a cafe...
Ever think about opening your own
place?

PIPER [ADDISON]
(laughs)
I wouldn't even know where to start.

ANDY
Well, how about the name.

PIPER [ADDISON]
(playing along)
Okay, what should I call it?

ANDY
I don't know. What about... The Cat's
in the Cradle?

PIPER [ADDISON]
I like that.
(thinking about it)
It could have these big comfy
chairs... Board games...

ANDY
And it'd only serve hot dogs and mac
n cheese.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Yeah, but like really upscale and
artisanal. Kid's food for grownups.

ANDY
Of course. What about pizza?

PIPER [ADDISON]
Obviously there'd be pizza. And
gelato. Gotta have gelato.

ANDY
Sounds perfect.

PIPER [ADDISON]
I'm seriously getting excited about
this.

ANDY
I seriously am too.

They're leaning in closer now.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You'll have to come back and visit
sometime to see it.

ANDY
Maybe I'll stick around for a while.
I'm starting to like this town.

Piper smiles.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL [C] -- NIGHT

Piper carries a small lantern and leads Andy down the trail.

ANDY
Where are we going?

PIPER [ADDISON]
You'll see.

The trees and underbrush open up to reveal --

EXT. POND [C] -- CONTINUOUS

An old, wooden dock that stretches out into the pond. Piper turns off the lantern. Andy stares at the reflections of the moon and stars dancing across the gently rippling water. A secluded place full of wonder.

ANDY
How have I never been here before?

PIPER [ADDISON]
How could you have been?

ANDY
I don't know... Just figured someone
would've told me about it before now.

PIPER [ADDISON]
That's the cool thing about this town. There are so many little nooks and crannies that most people don't even bother with.

They stare up at the stars. It's so beautiful.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You should be honored, you know. I never bring anyone here. It's my place to think.

ANDY
So what are you thinking about?

PIPER [ADDISON]
The usual stuff. Like when can I get another one of those frazburnak-things.
(smiles, beat)
But I'm also thinking, what if I never leave this town? Or what if I do leave and never want to come back?

ANDY
What if you don't need to decide tonight?

PIPER [ADDISON]
I guess I don't have to.

A moment between them. Just the gently lapping water.

Then Andy begins to hum "Cat's in the Cradle." Piper looks over, unsure if she should laugh. But Andy holds out his hand, asking her to dance.

She takes it and steps closer to him. He holds her as they begin to slow dance to his tune.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You dance a little funny.

ANDY
How do you like to dance?

PIPER [ADDISON]
It doesn't matter. I like this.

She leans her head on his shoulder.

ANDY
Addison?

PIPER [ADDISON]
Yes?

ANDY
Thank you.

PIPER [ADDISON]
For what?

ANDY
For bringing me here.

She smiles up at him.

He leans forward slowly. And their lips meet. Softly, sensually. There's magic between these two.

They wrap their arms around one another in what couldn't be a more perfect moment as the stars twinkle above them.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. POND [C] -- MORNING

Andy opens his eyes as the morning sun creeps over the trees. He's laying on a blanket in the grass near the dock. But Piper isn't laying next to him.

He sits up. Then sees her sitting on the end of the dock, feet dangling in the water. She smiles as he approaches.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Good morning.

ANDY
Good morning, yourself.

He sits next to her. Rolls up his pant legs and dangles his feet in the water.

ANDY
You know, I think I might have found my new favorite place in the world.

She considers him for a moment. Then looks away, something weighing on her.

PIPER [ADDISON]
It's crazy, isn't it? How someone new can come into your life and just change everything.

ANDY
Totally.

PIPER [ADDISON]
I think you're one of those people for me.

ANDY
Seriously?

PIPER [ADDISON]
I was up all night thinking about what you said. And I figured it out.
(MORE)

PIPER [ADDISON] (CONT'D)
(beat)
I want to open that restaurant.

ANDY
That's great. You totally should.

PIPER [ADDISON]
But then I realized... How am I supposed to know anything about food if this town is all I've ever experienced? I have to go out there and see and taste and smell all the world has to offer. Just like you did.

ANDY
Sure... Yeah, after your gap year is over, you --

PIPER [ADDISON]
I don't want to wait that long. I've been waiting my whole life. It's time I start doing.

Certainty in her eyes that wasn't there before. And a growing distress on Andy's face.

PIPER [ADDISON]
I'm so lucky to have met you. But of all people, I know that you'll understand that I have to do this.

No, he doesn't. Andy's mind is racing. *How could this have gone so wrong?* Then he blurts --

ANDY
I'll come with you!

Piper stiffens. An awkward laugh escapes her.

PIPER [ADDISON]
What are you talking about?

ANDY
Wherever you go, I'll go with you.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Maddox... I'm flattered, but let's be serious. I just met you.

ANDY
You said that some people come into your life and change everything. You changed everything for me too. Since the first time I saw you.

He means something so much deeper, but it doesn't come off that way to her. More just weird and desperate.

PIPER [ADDISON]
Listen, I had fun last night too. But
let's just leave it at that, okay?

She kisses him on the cheek. Then stands up and walks off
the dock. Andy gets to his feet --

ANDY
I love you!

PIPER [ADDISON]
What?

She turns back, baffled.

ANDY
I love you.

PIPER [ADDISON]
You don't even know me.

Totally weirded out, she goes up the trail out of sight.
And Andy can only watch her go, alone on the dock.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- NIGHT

Andy sits alone at the counter, nursing a root beer float.
Burger and fries nearly untouched. Harry nearby.

ANDY
If I hadn't brought up her
restaurant, she'd still be here.

HARRY [GARY]
If you hadn't lied to her, she'd
still be here too.

ANDY
You said be who I wanted to be.

HARRY [GARY]
Don't be a tipshit, kid. I meant be
your best self, not make someone up.

Andy pushes the burger away with a sigh.

HARRY [GARY]
My food's made for eating. Get you
something else instead?

ANDY
I don't suppose you know any place
around here where I could crash for
the night?

HARRY [GARY]
Got a few cots in the basement. Just
don't make a regular thing of it.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- NIGHT

The old wooden stairs creak under Andy's feet as he descends into the dark storeroom. Shelves of ingredients. Industrial refrigerators with rattling compressors. And a few OLD COTS with worn blankets. A couple other TRAVELERS sleep on them.

Andy sighs and sits on an unoccupied cot. He lays down and it squeaks stiffly under him. He shifts around, trying to get comfortable.

But his eyes remain open. Staring up at the ceiling.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- NIGHT

Andy steps out the back door and takes a deep breath. It's quiet out here. Parking lot nearly vacant now.

He gazes up at the starry sky. A beautiful sight, but it only makes him feel smaller and more alone.

MAVIR (O.S.)

You know one thing I do love about
this jumping business...

Andy turns to see an old man, MAVIR (80s), sitting at one of the outdoor tables, wearing a plaid threadbare coat and hat. Looks more homeless than old and wise. But there's something familiar about him. We've seen him before...

MAVIR

The stars are different in each
universe. Different clusters.
Different galaxies. The multiverse is
more diverse than piddly little us
could ever possibly imagine.

ANDY

To be honest, I hadn't noticed.

MAVIR

I didn't either. Not for years. But
after a while, up was the only place
I felt like looking.

ANDY

Don't I know you from somewhere?
(realizing)
Yeah... You're the fruit guy from the
diner. Extra cherries on your ice
cream sundae.

MAVIR

Afraid you're mistaken, young man. I
don't even know what cherries are.

(chuckles)

I bet you met another me. Funny how
big and how small the multiverse can
be at the same time.

(MORE)

MAVIR (CONT'D)
(extends his hand)
Name's Mavir. You're welcome to sit,
you know.

ANDY
Just needed a little air. Was gonna
head back in.

MAVIR
It's not like you'll get any sleep
down in that crusty old cellar
anyway. Sit down, son.

Andy hesitates, then takes a seat at the table.

MAVIR
Tell me somethin'. This other me...
Was there a woman with him? Sandy
blonde hair, green eyes, a smile that
makes you feel like the luckiest guy
in the world.

ANDY
Not that I saw. He was by himself.

Mavir nods, small and accepting. Sighs.

MAVIR
Her name's Zora. She was my wife. At
least, for a while. I didn't realize
what I had, and... Well, I made a
mistake. And she left. She was right
to. And you know what I did? I ran
away to find a universe where she
didn't know what I'd done.

ANDY
Did you find it?

MAVIR
Oh, I've met plenty of different
Zoras. Just not my Zora.

ANDY
Well how long have you been looking?

MAVIR
Thirty-four years.

Andy stares at him, unblinking. *Oh shit...*

MAVIR
That other me... Was he happy?

ANDY
Umm... I don't know. Seemed like it.

Mavir smiles wistfully.

MAVIR

Good for him.

(beat)

I keep hoping that one of these days,
I'll press that button and wind up
back where I came from. I figure...
Maybe after being gone for so long,
she'll have forgiven me.

A long moment passes. Something weighing on Andy's mind.

ANDY

I was looking for someone too. But...
I'm starting to think maybe I'm not
meant to find her. The crazy thing
is... When I first left, I was
thinking about someone else.

Andy hesitates. Then meets Mavir's gaze.

ANDY

I wanted my family back. I wanted to
find a place where we were what we
used to be... Before my mom died. But
no matter how many different versions
of our house I step into, she's never
there.

MAVIR

What was she like, back where you
were from?

Andy takes a shaky breath.

ANDY

She was the only person who could
make a shitty day better. She had
this dream of being a scientist. Or
at least a science teacher. Her and
my dad were saving up so that she
could take classes and get her
degree. But then I came along, and
she gave it all up... For me. That's
just the kind of person she was. The
sad part is, after she died... My dad
turned into the same sad drunk as the
guy who hit her with his car. He just
sat in his chair, and I sat in my
room. I wanted nothing to do with
him. I left him all alone back there
with a couple hundred bucks.

They sit in silence, each weighed down by their demons.
Mavir gazes up at the stars.

MAVIR

You know... Maybe there's some
advanced creatures out there who've
really figured it out.

(MORE)

MAVIR (CONT'D)
Like they can pinpoint the exact
universe they want to go to. The one
that's perfect just for them.

ANDY
You think there's a universe out
there where your wife loves you?

MAVIR
I've gotta believe there is. Why else
would I keep pressing the button?

Andy nods. Wanting to believe it's true.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- MORNING

Andy opens his eyes. Sunlight streams down the staircase. He
sits up and stretches his neck. Not a comfy night's sleep.
He sees Mavir on a nearby cot --

But something's wrong. The old man's eyes are open. And he's
not breathing. Andy scrambles to him.

ANDY
Mavir? Mavir?!

Realization spreads across his face.

EXT. CEMETERY, WOODS, NEAR HARRY'S HAMBURGERS [C] -- EVENING

A small cemetery amongst the trees, sparsely populated with
GRAVES. The headstones show only dates. NO NAMES.

Andy, Harry, and a few other weary Travelers stand around a
mound of dirt. A fresh grave.

HARRY [GARY]
What did you say his name was?

ANDY
Mavir.

HARRY [GARY]
Mavir... Maybe you'd like to say a
few words about him?

ANDY
I just met him last night.

Harry nods. Not the first time this has happened.

HARRY [GARY]
Well then, Mavir was a good customer.
Ate every last fry. Paid in full.
Left a nice tip. It was a pleasure
cooking for him. He'll be missed.

Andy stares at Mavir's grave. Then his eyes wander over the
nearby blank headstones. All the unnamed travelers who never
found what they were looking for.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- NIGHT

Harry raises his milkshake in a toast. Andy and all the other Travelers do the same.

HARRY [GARY]
To Mavir... May he find peace and
prosperity in that last universe of
all.

They all clink glasses and sip their milkshakes.

Except for Andy, who is deeply troubled.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [C] -- LATER

Andy sits alone at the counter. He stares at his phone, scrolling through PHOTOS FROM HIS HOME UNIVERSE. Piper with her arm around him. Kyle making a ridiculous face. With both of his parents when he was young.

He keeps swiping past more memories, each one another punch in the gut. Doesn't look up as Harry approaches.

HARRY [GARY]
Kid, I got a strict no loitering
policy. You gotta go outside. See the
world. Live a little.

ANDY
You know Mavir had been traveling for
thirty-four years? And all he wanted
to do was go home.
(beat)
This whole multiverse thing's a sham.
I'm through with it.

HARRY [GARY]
Well then, you could do worse. This
universe here ain't too bad.

ANDY
I'm not staying here. I'm going home.

Harry stares at him.

HARRY [GARY]
Kid, the odds of you finding your
universe are beyond impossible.
Winning the lottery, getting struck
by lightning, those are cakewalks
compared to this.

ANDY
There has to be a way. I mean, look
at this.

He pulls out his Jumper, pointing to its triple infinity symbol.

ANDY

That's a logo. Someone built this. If they can figure out how to get me here, they can figure out how to get me home.

HARRY [GARY]

You're forgetting one thing, kid.

He takes the Jumper from Andy's hand and waves it around.

HARRY [GARY]

These things don't work. You press that button and POOF! You're gone. That's why every Jumper is different. None of 'em ever caught on. Who would ever make more than a prototype if the prototype makes you vanish into thin air and never come back?

(hands him the Jumper)

Now my advice is to find yourself some nice little universe where no one hates ya and nothin's gonna eat ya. Then live out your life.

ANDY

I don't want to live in some random universe! I WANT TO GO HOME!

Silence around the diner. All the other Travelers turn, staring at him with pity.

HARRY [GARY]

Kid... If I had a quigly for every time some Traveler said that, I could close this joint down and retire.

Andy picks up his Jumper, desperation taking over.

ANDY

It's a random jump every time, right? So if I keep pressing the button, eventually I'll get home.

HARRY [GARY]

Or eventually you'll wind up like Mavir. I've been running this place a long time. No one, and I mean no one, has ever found their way home.

ANDY

Then I guess I'll be the first.

His finger hovers over the button.

HARRY [GARY]

Come on kid, don't do it. You're wasting your --

But Andy PRESSES THE BUTTON and THE BACKGROUND INSTANTLY CHANGES AROUND HIM --

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- CONTINUOUS

A NEW VERSION of the diner. Harry approaches with an EXTREMELY LONG BEARD.

HARRY
Looks like you had a day, kid. What
can I --

Andy presses the button again --

BEGIN TRAVEL SEQUENCE

WE STAY ON ANDY AS THE BACKGROUND RAPIDLY CHANGES AROUND HIM EVERY TIME HE PRESSES THE BUTTON, cycling through universe after universe in the blink of an eye.

Every time, it's a different version of the diner. Different uniforms. Different paint. Different colored stools.

HE PRESSES THE BUTTON - Lands in a universe where everyone is dressed in FURRY WINTER COATS and eating FRAZBURSNAKLES.

PRESSES THE BUTTON - The diner becomes an ELEGANT DINING ROOM, everyone in tuxedos and evening gowns, eating their food using only their mouths.

PRESSES THE BUTTON - VIKINGS dance and raise their mugs of mead high, singing a drinking song.

PRESSES THE BUTTON - A communist soup kitchen, everyone wearing dull, faded clothes. GIANT BANNERS show an OLD WHITE MAN'S STERN FACE, dictator style.

The pace rapidly accelerates, ANDY ALWAYS REMAINING CONSTANT AS THE BACKGROUND CHANGES.

He lands in a diner where there are ONLY WOMEN. Another where there are ONLY MEN. Another where he's the only one NOT IN A HAZMAT SUIT. Another where he's surrounded by NEANDERTHALS EATING RAW MEAT at their booths.

Andy keeps pressing the button, desperation taking over. But in every version of the diner, there is stranger clothing. Stranger foods. Stranger decor. Stranger music.

Andy's agitation grows. But he keeps pressing the button. Diner after diner. Universe after universe.

Day transitions to night.

Back to day.

Back to night.

We can't even tell anymore.

But Andy can't stop. His eyes become bloodshot. Stubble grows on his face.

Each button press becomes more tired. Methodical. The speed of universes passing around him slows down. He doesn't even glance around anymore. Not even bothering.

All hope fades from Andy's expression as the daunting realization takes hold. This truly is impossible.

He can barely keep his eyes open anymore. He presses the button one more time --

And THE STOOL CRUMBLES TO ASH BENEATH HIM.

Andy collapses to the ground. The Jumper tumbles out of his hand. He's too tired to even reach for it. His exhausted eyes close as we PULL UP AND AWAY TO REVEAL --

THE BURNED OUT SHELL OF THE DINER IN A NUCLEAR WASTELAND.

Everything is blackened by fire and ash. All of the trees are charred toothpicks pointing to the dismal gray sky. No greenery. No signs of life. Everything dead.

And Andy lays in the center of it.

FADE TO BLACK:

Silence.

Then distant, muffled sounds. They gradually grow louder. Echoey. Hard to make out.

FADE IN:

Andy slowly opens his eyes to see he's in --

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S HAMBURGERS [UNIVERSE D] -- NIGHT

The basement of the diner. But in this universe, it looks like a survivalist's fallout shelter.

Shelves full of nonperishable food. Bins of supplies. Hodgepodged suits of protective gear that look like something out of a post apocalyptic nightmare. Everything dirty and singed, like it was pulled from a fire.

Andy sits up with alarm. *Where the hell am I?*

But then the echoey sounds take shape around him... And to his surprise, it sounds like --

LAUGHTER. Lively conversation.

Warm candlelight draws Andy towards the other end of the space. The voices grow louder as he approaches. They begin to sound familiar as Andy steps around a shelf to see --

PIPER, KYLE, and IRIS, along with SEVERAL OTHER FACES we might recognize from high school. Their clothes are tattered and blackened by soot. Kyle stands in front of the group, drawing on a chalkboard.

EVERYONE
Stick! / Line! / Trough! / Animal!

Andy's jaw drops. *Are they playing Pictionary?!*

Kyle draws what looks like a stick figure animal. An upside down top hat. Then an emphatic arrow from one to the other.

EVERYONE
Hole! / Rat hole! / Rabbit catcher!

Kyle emphasizes the arrow. Andy stares. *How are they not getting this?*

ANDY
The Cat in the Hat?

All of them turn, startled to see Andy standing there.

KYLE [JAMES]
Bingo! Five points for the new guy.

IRIS [ALICE]
No way, how did you get cat in the hat out of that?

KYLE [JAMES]
Cuz I'm an amazing artist, ain't that right, new guy? How you feeling, man?

Andy suddenly starts feeling his pockets as he realizes --

ANDY
Where's my stuff? Where's my Jumper?!

KYLE [JAMES]
All your stuff's right there. Don't worry, you're safe with us.

Andy sees his things nicely arranged on the nearby table, most notably, his Jumper.

ANDY
Thanks, but I gotta get out of here.

He frantically grabs his things.

PIPER [MARY]
What's your hurry?

Andy slows and meets her gaze.

PIPER [MARY]
 You've gotta be hungry. We just
 whipped up some stew. Why don't you
 have a bowl with us before you go?

She's dirty and disheveled... And yet, she has the same
 sparkle in her eyes that he's always known.

ANDY
 Okay.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [D] -- LATER

Andy sits at an old table with all of them, eating stew.

ANDY
 So how long has it been like this?

IRIS [ALICE]
 How long has what been like this?

ANDY
 The diner. The world. Life.

KYLE [JAMES]
 (chuckles)
 Listen to this guy. Where are you
 from, man? You just crash here on a
 spaceship or something?

ANDY
 No, I... I live in a bunker too. Only
 it's a lot... Bigger... With a lot
 more people... I'm part of the
 resistance.

IRIS [ALICE]
 Resisting who exactly?

ANDY
 The ones that did this to us.

PIPER [MARY]
 Did what to us?

ANDY
 You know... I mean...

He stops and thinks about it. Sighs.

ANDY
 You know what... Screw it. I don't
 have any idea what's going on here.
 I'm a parallel universe traveler.

They all stare at him for a long moment.

Then Kyle slams his hand on the table, beyond excited.

KYLE [JAMES]
 I told you guys! I told you! I've
 been saying it for months, all these
 strange people in their strange
 clothes with their strange accents,
 who always show up out of nowhere and
 are in such a rush to leave. They
 must be from some kind of other
 dimension. And you all said I was
 crazy. But could I be more right?!
 Could I be more right?!

PIPER [MARY]
 You're not joshing us? You're
 seriously from... Another universe?

ANDY
 Swear to God. That is, if you believe
 in a God around here.

KYLE [JAMES]
 Could I be more right?!

IRIS [ALICE]
 Thanks. Now he's never gonna let us
 live this down.

PIPER [MARY]
 So what was your universe like? It
 must've been pretty bad if you
 decided to leave.

ANDY
 Yeah... I mean, kinda. I guess.

IRIS [ALICE]
 Was there acid rain that melted
 everything?

KYLE [JAMES]
 Or nargons that ate everyone alive?

IRIS [ALICE]
 Or some disease that turned everyone
 into flesh eating corpses?

ANDY
 Not really, no. I was just sorta...
 Depressed. Thought I needed a change.

PIPER [MARY]
 Well, you're welcome to stay here as
 long as you like.

ANDY
 Thanks.

He takes a spoonful of his stew.

ANDY
This is really good by the way.

KYLE [JAMES]
Yeah, thank Mary. She makes
everything around here.

ANDY
It's really good, Mary.

Piper smiles back at him.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [D] -- LATER

Most of the candles are out now. Deep, steady breathing from
the cots.

Andy and Piper sit in two beat up comfy chairs.

ANDY
Do you miss it? The old world?

PIPER [MARY]
What's there to miss?

ANDY
I don't know... Everything?

PIPER [MARY]
Have you ever read one of those books
where the characters are on some far
off alien world?

ANDY
You mean science fiction?

PIPER [MARY]
Yeah. Have you read any of those?

ANDY
A lot of them actually.

PIPER [MARY]
Do you ever miss those places?

ANDY
Umm... Maybe in some ways, like,
wouldn't it be cool to be there or
see that. But they're not real.

PIPER [MARY]
Well, the old world, it's not real to
me. It's just stories, same as the
science fiction books. This is the
only world I've ever known. And I'm
okay with that.

A moment as Andy takes this in.

ANDY
I wrote a science fiction story once.

PIPER [MARY]
Really? What's it about?

ANDY
It's called "The Unfathomable
Adventures of Aaron Anders." This guy
Aaron has this spaceship that lets
him travel to any alien planet in the
blink of an eye. He goes on all these
crazy adventures and meets this...

He trails off, becoming self conscious.

ANDY
It's just this stupid comic I was
tinkering around with when I was
bored.

PIPER [MARY]
It doesn't sound stupid.
(smiles)
You're him. You're Aaron Anders.

ANDY
What? No, not at all.

PIPER [MARY]
You have a device that lets you go
anywhere you want in the blink of an
eye. Sounds a lot like your story.
Maybe you're just missing the
adventure part.
(has a thought and smiles)
Come on. I'll take you on one.

She takes his hand and leads him towards a MAKESHIFT HATCH.

ANDY
Where are we going?

PIPER [MARY]
Outside.

ANDY
But... Isn't that dangerous?

PIPER [MARY]
That's why it's an adventure.

EXT. RUINS OF HARRY'S HAMBURGERS [D] -- CONTINUOUS

Piper and Andy emerge from the hatch. Her eyes rise to the
pitch black sky.

PIPER [MARY]
Wait for it...

ANDY
Wait for what?

PIPER [MARY]
There!

Andy follows her gaze... And his jaw drops.

LIGHTING STREAKS ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY from horizon to horizon. Only this isn't like the lightning we know. The ash clouds make it appear in GORGEOUS COLORS. Oranges. Purples. Reds. An otherworldly light show. Stunning to behold.

ANDY
Whoa...

PIPER [MARY]
See? Not all fire and brimstone.
(laughs)
Well, kind of fire and brimstone.

They take in the mesmerizing sight.

PIPER [MARY]
You know, there actually is one thing
I wish we had from the old world.
(beat)
When I was a little girl, my dad
found this old record player with a
big bin of records. We cranked the
little wheel on the side, and
listened to them over and over again.
We played them until they faded away,
and we couldn't hear them anymore.
But I can still hear the songs in my
head sometimes.

She starts humming a tune, and we realize that it's "Cat's in the Cradle." Andy smiles at her.

PIPER [MARY]
What?

ANDY
I've got something for you.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S HAMBURGERS [D] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy leads Piper to his things and picks up his PHONE.

PIPER [MARY]
What is that?

ANDY
It's kind of a lot of things, but
most importantly, it's a music
player. It's got a couple thousand
songs on it.

PIPER [MARY]
But it's so small.

He opens the music app. Hits play.

HARRY CHAPIN'S "CAT'S IN THE CRADLE" plays.

Piper's jaw drops as the song begins. She listens intently, tears welling up in her eyes.

KYLE [JAMES] (O.S.)
What is that? Is that music?!

The others quickly come over from their bunks. In awe of the music filling the basement.

They gather around, listening to the old song that we could hear anytime we want. But for them, this is a moment they'll never forget.

Andy watches with a broad smile on his face. The best he's felt in a very, very long time.

EXT. RUINS OF HARRY'S HAMBURGERS [D] -- TWILIGHT

Andy, Piper and the others emerge from the basement. Andy has his things, ready to go.

KYLE [JAMES]
You sure you can't stay longer?

PIPER [MARY]
I already tried. He can't stay. He has more adventures waiting for him.

She exchanges a smile with Andy.

ANDY
Yeah. I've got places to go.
(beat)
But here. Take this.

He hands Piper his phone. She accepts it like a rare treasure, genuinely touched.

ANDY
Just... Skip over all the Justin Bieber stuff. It was a phase.

He pulls out his Jumper, finger on the button.

PIPER [MARY]
Safe travels.

ANDY
Thanks. And for what it's worth, this is the coolest universe I've been to so far.

He presses the button. And the world around him vanishes in an instant --

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- DAY

Andy looks around to see that everything once again appears normal. Green trees. Cars parked in the lot. And most importantly, the diner with its glowing neon sign.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- DAY

Andy sits down at the counter as Harry comes out from the kitchen, toweling off his hands.

HARRY [LARRY]
What can I get ya, kid? Looks like you had a day.

ANDY
Actually Larry, I'm having a great day. But listen, before I drop any cash, I've got a question for you...
(smiles)
What's cool to do around here?

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP -- DAY

Andy sits in the driver's seat of a CHERRY RED CONVERTIBLE SPORTS CAR. The dash is sleek and modern, like a Tesla.

We recognize the car salesman sitting next to him is DARRYL, Andy's old boss from the grocery store. His name tag reads "Falcon." And he still looks like a douche.

DARRYL [FALCON]
Zero to sixty in 2.2 seconds. Goes a thousand miles on a single charge. And you can go fully autonomous with the touch of a button.

ANDY
Sounds dizzy, Darryl. Let's see what this bad boy can do.

DARRYL [FALCON]
My name's not Darryl.

ANDY
Sorry, you look like a Darryl.

Andy presses the 'on' button and takes the wheel. The car begins to move.

But not forward. IT LIFTS OFF INTO THE AIR.

It's a freakin' FLYING CAR!

EXT. SKY ABOVE SUTTON -- DAY

Wind billows through Andy's hair as he screams with elation, SOARING THROUGH THE SKY. Darryl hangs on for dear life.

DARRYL [FALCON]
Slow down! Slow down!

But Andy just speeds up and flies higher, causing Darryl to scream too.

Andy gazes over the side, taking in the picturesque bird's eye view of his town. From up here, it's breathtaking. He zooms down, flying past the diner and its neon sign.

DARRYL [FALCON]
If you put a dent on this baby, it's gonna be my nipper!

ANDY
Shut up, Darryl!

He jets off into the clouds.

CUT TO:

Close on ANDY'S EYES, filled with skepticism. Cut back to reveal --

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON -- DAY

Another universe with a normal looking version of his town. Except for one thing.

EVERYONE IS NAKED.

Young people, old people, attractive people, awkward people. Going about their business, cool as cucumbers. Strategically placed objects prevent us from seeing any actual nudity. But ANDY SEES EVERYTHING.

And he looks pretty self-conscious, the only one wearing any clothes. But then he steels himself.

ANDY
Screw it.

He pulls off his shirt. Drops his drawers.

Then walks into town like he owns the place, arctic white ass cheeks and all.

EXT. DIRT ROAD, FOREST -- DAY

Another universe. Andy walks down the dirt road towards town, surrounded by dense trees on either side. He's sweating more than normal. A lot more buzzing insects than normal too.

He spots a bright YELLOW ROAD SIGN up ahead. An ANIMAL CROSSING sign. But as he draws closer, his eyes narrow.

On this sign is the silhouette of a TYRANNOSAURUS REX.

THUMP... THUMP... THUMP... Behind him. Andy slowly turns. Eyes widening as he sees --

A T-REX CROSSING THE ROAD.

Andy takes in the sight of the gigantic beast with a mixture of awe and terror. But mostly terror. The T-Rex slows, and turns its enormous head towards him. Andy SCREAMS.

But the T-Rex just eyes him quizzically, canting its head like a confused dog.

Then Andy notices a bridle around it's head. *Is it domesticated?* He takes a cautious step towards the beast.

CUT TO:

EXT. RANCH -- DAY

Andy decked out in a swank dinosaur skin cowboy hat, dusty brown shirt, rugged cargo pants, and cowboy boots. He helps a KID climb onto the saddle ATOP A JUVENILE T-REX.

ANDY

There you go. Now just swing your leg over. Don't worry, he won't bite.

Around him, other COWBOYS help kids onto the backs of small dinosaurs. THEY'RE TEACHING THEM HOW TO RIDE.

HARRY RIDES BY ON A FULL SIZE T-REX, driving a HERD OF TRICERATOPS through a grassy field as if they were cattle.

We follow him, revealing a RUSTIC LOG CABIN OF A DINER, with a sign proclaiming, "Teddy's All-Night Triburgers."

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy wears his dino cowboy gear as he eats a triburger and sips a milkshake.

But his attention is focused on the TABLET he's drawing on. Like an iPad, but larger with a different interface.

On it, he DRAWS A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO THIS UNIVERSE in his typical comic book style. Complete with sections that talk about domesticated dinosaurs, food recommendations, places to visit, etc.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- LATER

Harry stands behind the counter, looking at Andy's Universe Guide on the tablet with a raised eyebrow.

ANDY

So it's like a travel book,
travelogue, guide book, sorta thing.
Has what to do, where to go, what to
eat, what not to eat, local currency.
That sorta stuff.

As he speaks, Harry swipes, revealing ANOTHER UNIVERSE GUIDE
for one Andy previously visited. And another. And another.

ANDY

I just figured you could hand them
out to travelers when they arrive, so
they don't feel quite so lost.

Harry eyes him.

HARRY [TEDDY]

You know what, kid... That's a pretty
dongo good idea.

CUT TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- DIFFERENT UNIVERSE GUIDES come off VARIOUS PRINTERS:
archaic, hyper advanced, and everything in between.
- The pages are picked up by DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF HARRY,
who stands next to Andy wearing different outfits.
- Harry hands out the Universe Guides to TRAVELER AFTER
TRAVELER as they come into the diner. Each one looks at it
with their own kind of gratitude.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Another universe. Andy sits at a booth, drawing its guide.

Shuffling papers draw his attention to the counter where TWO
TRAVELERS are discussing each other's universe guide books.
Andy smiles, proud.

WAITRESS (O.S.)

Hi, what can I get ya?

Andy looks up, recognizing her voice. It's PIPER. Dressed in
the diner's waitress outfit. Andy is caught off guard for a
moment. Didn't expect to see her here.

PIPER [LARKIN]

Or if you need a few minutes, I can
come back.

ANDY

That's okay. Let's see, I'll have...

He flips through the menu, taking in the exotic cuisine.
Piper notices his half-finished universe guide drawing.

PIPER [LARKIN]
 Wait... Are you the one who's been
 drawing these? You're Andy?! THE
 Andy?!

From the sound of her voice, she's talking to a celebrity.

ANDY
 Uh... I guess so?

PIPER [LARKIN]
 Holy gobbersmack, that's nanzers!
 I've been collecting every one of
 your guides I can get my hands on.

She pulls a folded stack of papers out of her apron, all
 Andy's Universe Guides.

PIPER [LARKIN]
 I've been saving my tip money for
 months so I can just take off and
 jump.
 (thinking)
 Hey... Would you maybe be willing to
 go on one or two jumps with me? You
 know, just to show me the ropes.

ANDY
 I mean, yeah, I'd be...

But then he stops himself, thinking about it more.

ANDY
 Actually, uh...
 (reads name tag)
 Larkin. The truth is, I'd love to
 travel with you. But I don't want you
 to make a decision you'll regret.

PIPER [LARKIN]
 Wait, seriously?

ANDY
 A wise man once told me not to go to
 a parallel universe. Not gonna lie, I
 should have listened to him.

PIPER [LARKIN]
 But there's nothing for me here. This
 universe is downright lomidic
 compared to all the others out there.

ANDY
 Let me guess. You have a lot of what
 if's?

PIPER [LARKIN]
 I mean... A few, kinda, sure.

She has some big ones.

ANDY
Jumping to another universe won't
make them go away. Of all the
universes I've been to, you know
which one I miss the most?

(beat)
The one I started in.

PIPER [LARKIN]
Must've been way dizzier than mine
then.

ANDY
Not really. It's pretty middle of the
road as far as universes go.

PIPER [LARKIN]
Then what's there to miss?

Andy takes a moment, considering.

ANDY
I miss the chances I never took. I'll
never get to tell the girl I loved
that I loved her. I'll never be able
to help my dad get better. I'll never
get the comic that I poured my heart
and soul into read by anyone else.

(beat)
If you're looking for something, stay
here and go after it.

Piper is taken aback. Not what she wanted to hear.

ANDY
But hey, it's your choice. If you
really want to go, I'll trade you my
jumper right now.

PIPER [LARKIN]
For what?

ANDY
How about a side of fries?

He takes out his Jumper and sets it on the table.

Piper carefully picks it up, turning it over in her hand.
Imagining the possibilities. She looks up at Andy, staring
into his eyes, trying to read his story.

Then she sets the Jumper back down.

PIPER [LARKIN]
Jerry will come take your order. Safe
travels, Andy.

Andy watches her head towards the kitchen. She takes off her
apron and hands it to Harry as he comes out.

Then she turns and walks out the door.

Harry watches, stunned. Then heads over to Andy.

HARRY [JERRY]
What'd you tell her?

ANDY
The truth.

Not what Harry was expecting. But he nods, understanding.

HARRY [JERRY]
Twigler with cheese and a root
bubble float, on the house.

Andy nods his thanks.

He glances out the window, watching Piper walk off towards her life.

He may have done the right thing, but he's still alone.

INT. BASEMENT, HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy lays on his cot in the darkness, drawing on his tablet, illuminated by its glow. Other Travelers are fast asleep.

ON SCREEN: A comic book style drawing of him alongside his parents. Piper next to him, his arm around her. Warm smiles on all their faces.

He stares at it. His own perfect universe.

Then he swipes an eraser across the image to delete it.

He sets down his tablet, and just lays there, awake and alone in the darkness amidst the other sleeping travelers.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- DAY

Andy steps outside. Sighs. Another day, another universe.

He pulls out his Jumper. Without fanfare, he presses the button and lands in --

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS [UNIVERSE E] -- DAY

Andy looks towards the diner's omnipresent neon sign, getting his bearings.

But it's not there.

Confused, he turns around and sees --

THERE IS NO HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS.

In its place is a boxy INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, far bigger than the diner. Long since ABANDONED, surrounded by a decade's worth of growth. Dark windows. Ominous quiet.

For the first time in any universe Andy has seen, there are not even remnants of the diner. It never existed here. Andy takes in the sight with a hint of sadness.

But the SOUND OF A REVVING ENGINE turns his head as --

A FUTURISTIC CAR barrels down the road, hovering a few feet off the ground.

Andy jogs out to the road, giving him a clear view of a FUTURISTIC TOWN in the distance. Holograms dance above buildings. Flying vehicles in the sky. It feels straight out of a sci-fi novel that he would read.

Intrigued, he sets off towards the town. He passes by an OLD CORPORATE SIGN beside the driveway, OBSCURED BY OVERGROWN VINES. He doesn't even notice it.

But we do. And behind the growth, we can just make out something familiar...

A TRIPLE INFINITY SYMBOL.

The same logo we've seen over and over on Andy's Jumper.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON [E] -- DAY

Andy wanders down main street, gawking at the sights. It's still his town, but unlike any version he's ever imagined.

Everything is sleek and elegant with minimalist design. Businesses tout robotic maids, language learning microchips, and lab grown organic meat. Every holographic logo has dazzling colors. The CITIZENRY wear form-fitted clothes and computerized accessories on their heads and wrists.

It sure looks like the future, but a hologram in a window claims March 4, 2018. Maybe the dark ages never happened.

PIPER comes down the sidewalk, walking her DOG that zips around sniffing with a hover pack. There's something even more striking about her here. Like the foxy sci-fi girl of his dreams.

Andy watches her move closer. Wanting to approach...

But something comes over him. He steels himself, steps out of her way, and simply smiles politely as she passes.

And that's when he sees it.

Amidst the futuristic shops, one stands out with its bold simplicity. Like a next century Apple Store...

Only ITS LOGO IS A TRIPLE INFINITY.

Andy stares, scarcely believing his eyes.

With trembling hands, he pulls out his Jumper. The logo is exactly the same.

His gaze returns to the store. Other shoppers breeze past him and step through the door, like it's any other shop. Andy follows them inside...

INT. TRIPLE INFINITY STORE [E] -- CONTINUOUS

Andy looks around, in a state of nervous awe. Holographic phones. Advanced computers. AR headsets.

But NO JUMPERS IN SIGHT. Nothing even resembling one.

HARRY [ZARRY] (O.S.)
Help you find something, sir?

Andy turns to see HARRY. Clean cut. Hair coiffed. In a slick, one piece uniform with a triple infinity logo. Not quite as sexy as many of the younger folk, but even he looks freakin cool. His name tag: "Zarry"

ANDY
Whoa. What are you doing here?

HARRY [ZARRY]
What am I doing here? What are you doing here?

Still the same old Harry. Andy holds up his Jumper.

ANDY
I'm looking for whoever made this thing.

Harry eyes the Jumper, downright baffled. *Is this a joke?*

HARRY [ZARRY]
What the huzu is it?

ANDY
What do you mean, what is it? It's got your logo on it!

HARRY [ZARRY]
Looks like a cheap knockoff, kid.
Hope you didn't pay much for it.

ANDY
It's not a knockoff. It's beyond the real deal. Listen, I really need to meet whoever made it.

HARRY [ZARRY]
How would I know who made it? I don't even know what it is.

ANDY
It's a --

Andy takes an exasperated breath. *So close... This can't be happening...*

ANDY

Alright, Zarry. This is going to sound crazy, but I swear to you that it's true...

Harry doesn't look convinced of anything yet.

ANDY

I'm a parallel universe traveler... I came here, using this device... And I know that someone in this universe built it.

Employees and customers glance over. *Who is this crazy guy?*

HARRY [ZARRY]

Cute story, kid. But I've got a low tolerance for practical nokies. I'm gonna have to ask you to leave.

He grabs Andy by the arm and ushers him towards the door.

ANDY

I'm serious, Zarry, or Harry, or Barry, or whatever you like to go by, I couldn't make this up!

HARRY [ZARRY]

Then apparently you made a wrong turn, cuz in our humble world, parallel universe travel doesn't exist. We're old school round here.

ANDY

Listen, I know you! You've been in practically every universe I've seen.

HARRY [ZARRY]

You don't know me, kid.

He's about to shove Andy out the door --

ANDY

Yes I do! And you shouldn't be here, you should be running your diner!

Now THAT stops Harry in his tracks.

HARRY [ZARRY]

What did you say?

ANDY

You should be running your diner. You know, big neon sign by the road, or I suppose holographic sign around here. All the comfort food a person could want after a rough day. With good music to set the mood. And it's open all night long.

Harry doesn't blink, like he's seen a ghost.

Then he rummages around his pocket and pulls out a flexible device that unrolls into a screen. Touches it to reveal --

A SKETCH OF THE DINER. As Andy stares at it, it lifts off the screen, becoming a hologram. ZARRY'S ALL-NIGHT ZAMBURGERS. The blueprint for his dream. Just like Andy described it.

HARRY [ZARRY]
I've never told a soul about this...

ANDY
Well, I've been there. It's one of the best places around.

He holds up his tablet, swiping through his universe guide. Past version after version of the diner in all its neon glory before Harry's wide eyes.

ANDY
Please. I just want to go home.

Harry eyes the Jumper, beginning to believe.

INT. TRIPLE INFINITY STORE [E] -- LATER

Andy paces, no interest in the advanced tech around him. He doesn't even care about Kyle and Brad eyeing him from across the store in their uniforms.

Harry steps out from the back.

HARRY [ZARRY]
Alright kid, you better not be some sockjob, cuz I just went way above my paymark for ya. Dr. Farland wants to meet you face to face.

ANDY
Who's Dr. Farland?

HARRY [ZARRY]
Apparently the one who built that thing you're holding.

ANDY
Dizzy. So where do I go?

HARRY [ZARRY]
I have no idea. I just got an E.M. that said, "If he is what he claims, he'll know where to meet me."

ANDY
That's it?

HARRY [ZARRY]
That's it.

ANDY
But I don't...

He trails off as a smile spreads. He knows exactly where to go.

ANDY
Thank you.

He dashes out the door, calling back --

ANDY
And you really should open that
diner! You're a great chef!

Hmm... Harry likes the sound of that.

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING [E] -- DAY

Andy jogs towards the abandoned industrial building where the diner usually sits. But this time, he notices the old sign outside, obscured by vines.

He pulls the vines away, revealing the large TRIPLE INFINITY LOGO. Only now we see the company name below it --

INFINITE HORIZONS

Andy's eyes rise to the building... So close.

INT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING [E] -- DAY

The door creaks open and Andy steps into a long forgotten building. Shafts of sunlight stream in, casting geometric shadow designs across the wide open workspace. Aerial sculptures still hang from the ceiling, drifting in the breeze. Broken furniture and equipment are strewn about, covered in dust. No one's been here for a long time.

It was a cutting edge facility once. But now, it's a tomb. A place where dreams died.

ANDY
Hello? Dr. Farland?

No answer. But he does hear *something*. A faint METALLIC CLINKING.

Andy follows the sound, heading down a hallway, his footsteps echoing. The persistent clinking grows louder. He rounds a corner into a --

RESEARCH LAB [E]

Scattered shafts of light illuminate advanced machinery that was long ago left to rust. Years more advanced than ours, and somehow even more troubling in its lifelessness.

But the clinking metal sound is no longer faint. It's coming from in here. Andy steps forward, looking around. And he realizes, he's not alone.

There's A WOMAN sitting with her back to us at the far end of the lab, tinkering with a sputtering holo projector, fixing it. Clinks from her tools.

Andy eagerly moves towards her. She senses someone behind her and turns to face him.

But in all of the universes Andy has been to, nothing can prepare him for this...

IT'S HIS MOM.

His breath catches as he stares at the woman he hasn't seen since he was a boy. She may be dressed differently, but there's no mistaking her face. Her eyes.

A long moment passes as these two take each other in. The inventor and her test pilot. The mother and her son.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
You're him... You're really him...

ANDY
I am...

She shuts off the hologram and steps forward, looking over Andy with the glee of a scientist whose impossible theory has been proven right.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
You have to understand my skepticism.
There've been many other so-called
universe travelers over the years.
People who take pleasure in rubbing
failure in my face --

ANDY
You're anything but a failure.

He pulls out his Jumper and holds it out. She takes it from him with the utmost delicacy. Mesmerized by it. He watches her every move for the subtlest detail, trying to restrain his emotions, knowing that to her, he's just a stranger.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
How did you possibly find Mulliver?

ANDY
Mulliver?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Oh, it's just a silly name I called
it when no one was listening. After
the character in the book. Mulliver's
Travels.

ANDY
 (smirks)
 Where I come from, we call him
 Gulliver.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Gulliver... I like that too.

She traces her hands over the Jumper.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 But I don't understand... Anything we
 ever sent through... It never came
 back. I mean, look around you. This
 used to be our lab. This little
 gadget basically ended my career. And
 here you are now, telling me it
 actually works?

ANDY
 Oh, it works. And there are others
 like it out there. From different
 inventors in different universes.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Different universes... What are they
 like?

ANDY
 I'll show you.

He pulls out his tablet and sets it down. Scanning through
 his artwork of all the places he's been. Dinosaurs. Flying
 cars. Nuclear apocalypse. And many more.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Incredible...
 (beat)
 I don't suppose you ever... Met
 another me?

Andy stares, on the verge of breaking down. Hugging her.
 Telling her everything. But he doesn't. He holds it back.

ANDY
 I did. Once.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Was she happy?

ANDY
 I think so. Her life wasn't anything
 like this. But she had a son.

Dawn smiles at the thought.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 I wanted a family once. But this...
 (holds up Jumper)
 This was my baby.

ANDY
Why'd you build it?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
I guess I wondered... *What if*. What
if there's a better place out there
somewhere? A better world? A better
life?

(beat)
Is that so crazy?

ANDY
No. Not at all.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
What about you? You've been all over
the multiverse... What were you
looking for?

She's standing right in front of him. He forces a smile.
This is very hard for him.

ANDY
When I left, I was looking for a lot
of things. But now, I just want to
get back.

Dawn considers him for a long moment, on the same page.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
It took me a while, but I realized
that sending someone into a parallel
universe is kind of like sending them
into space. It seems hard to get them
there, but then you learn, it's even
harder to bring them back.

ANDY
Believe me, I know.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
But I think I know why the back
button doesn't work.

She touches a small button to the left of the forward arrow.
A button that has never done anything for Andy.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
We tried to chart the universes
mathematically, like coordinates on a
map. But the multiverse is infinitely
more complicated than that. The human
mind is the only computer complicated
enough to navigate it. If I'd been a
mother, like the other me you met, I
might have figured it out sooner.

A moment as this sinks in for Andy.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 You're unique. We're all unique. You may be ninety-nine percent similar to a million other yous out there. But there is at least one thing about you that makes you different than all the rest.

ANDY
 That's a nice sounding theory.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Well it's more than just a theory. I built a prototype.

She lifts a hard case off the floor and sets it on the table. Flips the latches and opens the lid. Inside is a U-SHAPED DEVICE WITH A SIMILAR DESIGN AS ANDY'S JUMPER, and an ADVANCED HEADSET in the shape of a Greek laurel crown.

She pulls out the device and SNAPS IT ONTO THE BASE OF ANDY'S JUMPER, a perfectly designed accessory. As she does, the crown comes to life, pulsing with glowing light.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 I had to build it myself because the company would never fund it. The idea is that it taps into your memories. Memories that are unique only to you and your universe. Your memories provide the navigational coordinates, and the machine matches them.

ANDY
 And this thing... It works?

Uncertainty from Dawn.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 In theory. I've never had any data to plug into it. You're the first real multiverse traveler I've ever met. So... It might work. Or you might vanish into oblivion.

Well that's ominous. Andy doesn't like the sound of it. He stares at her invention. But then something comes over him. He chuckles, amused it's come to this.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 What is it?

ANDY
 Swing the bat.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
 Swing the what?

ANDY
 Just go for it.

Dawn sees his determination. He believes in her.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
I just realized... You're the most
extraordinary person I've ever met...
And I don't even know your name.

ANDY
Andy.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Andy... That's a nice name.

She smiles. Then opens the Jumper, revealing its holographic buttons whirring with energy. She presses a rapid sequence of keys. The accessory and headset respond in kind, humming with a higher pitch.

She lifts the headset and sets it on Andy's head like a futuristic crown. Then she sets the Jumper in his hand and closes his fingers around it. A magical touch to Andy.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Okay... Now press the button. Only
don't let go until I tell you.

ANDY
Won't I disappear the moment I press
it?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Not anymore. Or at least, I certainly
hope not.

Andy looks at the Jumper with the same trepidation he had the first time. Then presses the button, holding it down.

He doesn't disappear. Instead, the HUMMING GROWS LOUDER AND LOUDER. Around the lab, lights on equipment flicker and flash. Sparks fly from some of them. Andy flinches, but he doesn't let go of the button.

Then WISPY HOLOGRAMS MATERIALIZE in the air around him, projected by his headset. GLOWING DOTS OF WHITE LIGHT fill the room like a 3D planetarium.

As more and more dots appear, they take on a shape reminiscent of A BRANCHING TREE. A stunning sight to behold.

ANDY
Is that... The multiverse?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Just a small part of it. Your part.
That's your tree. The universes in
which some version of you exists. Now
all we have to do is find yours.

Andy gazes at the countless dots. There must be MILLIONS.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
I need you to think back, Andy. Think
back to an event that shaped your
life. That changed who you are.

Andy takes a moment, thinking...

CUT TO:

A RAPID-FIRE SERIES OF MEMORIES FLOW IN AND OUT OF EACH
OTHER: Little league runners on base, parents cheering,
Young Andy at bat, he watches the ball fly past --

BACK TO ANDY. He looks around as a few GLOWING WHITE DOTS
DISAPPEAR. But the vast majority remain.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
What are you thinking about?

ANDY
Striking out in little league.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
Apparently a lot of you struck out.
Think harder. Something more personal.

Andy steadies his breathing. Focusing...

RAPID FIRE IMAGES: Kids scatter for hide and seek, Andy
climbs a tree to see Piper, their eyes meet, Andy looks
away, missing his chance to kiss her --

BACK TO ANDY. He watches more glowing dots disappear. But
still too many remain to count.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
These memories are a part of the vast
majority of the yous out there. You
need to hone in on something that is
only yours.

ANDY
Okay... I think I've got something.

RAPID FIRE IMAGES: Andy steps out of the diner with the
Jumper, trepidation in his eyes, presses the glowing button
for the first time --

BACK TO ANDY. A lot of dots disappear this time, making
entire branches and limbs vanish. BUT THOUSANDS OF DOTS
STILL GLOW around the lab.

ANDY
No way! That many other me's jumped
to parallel universes?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
In infinite universes, is that so
hard to believe? Keep going. You're
getting closer.

But he's getting frustrated. Did every version of him make the same mistakes? He steels himself and tries again.

RAPID FIRE IMAGES: Teenage Andy embraces both of his parents, kisses the original Piper, autographs his Aaron Anders Comic for adoring fans --

BACK TO ANDY. ALL OF THE GLOWING DOTS VANISH. His heart sinks.

ANDY
What happened?

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
You're not thinking of memories.
You're imagining something you've
never experienced, aren't you?

Andy sighs, averting her gaze.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
It only works with the unique
signature of your memories. They're
your roadmap.
(softens)
Listen, when you're in a bad place and
you need to go somewhere that feels
like home... What do you think of?

Andy looks her in the eye.

And suddenly he knows...

He takes a deep breath, closing his eyes, taking us into --

RAPID-FIRE IMAGES: A theme park, nine-year-old Andy looks around with wide eyes, eats cotton candy, turns to HIS MOM LEADING THE WAY as she holds his hand, laughs as she tousles his hair, they ride a roller coaster, their hair blowing in the wind, smiling with elation. A perfect moment...

The IMAGE FREEZES. And we realize we're looking at the FRAMED PHOTO of Andy and his Mom on that roller coaster. We pull out slightly to see it in his old drawer. In his original bedroom. In his own universe.

BACK TO ANDY. He opens his eyes, knowing he's found it.

And sure enough, a SINGLE POINT OF LIGHT appears in front of him. Dawn smiles at him with pride.

ANDY
My mom... It was a memory with my
mom. The photo was always different
in every universe. But that was mine.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]
She must be very important to you.

ANDY

She is.

They hold each other's gaze.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]

You have to hold onto that memory.
When you let go of that button, no
matter what happens, keep hold of it.
If you lose it, there's no telling
what'll happen to you.

(beat)

Are you ready?

Andy eyes the jumper in his hand. Then looks back at his mom. And he lowers the Jumper.

ANDY

Dr. Farland... There's something I
have to tell you... I...

He looks deep into her eyes. And she seems to recognize something in his. She reaches out and takes his hands.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]

Andy... It's going to take you home.

Andy nods.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]

Let go...

He raises his Jumper. And takes one last look at his mom.

ANDY

Thank you. For everything.

DAWN [DR. FARLAND]

Safe travels, Andy.

Andy smiles at her. Then lets go of the button.

And the BACKGROUND BEHIND HIM TRANSFORMS, but not in a flash like we're used to. Instead, it RIPPLES WITH ENERGY.

UNIVERSES BEGIN TO FLOW PAST, fluidly dissolving from one to the next.

Andy remains constant as we catch glimpses of the many universes that he has visited -- Dinosaurs. Naked people. Apocalypse. Version after version of the diner flow past, with all of their various clientele.

Andy turns his head, distracted by the sights, and suddenly the flow of energy takes on a darker, ominous tint. The universes traveling by become more abstract and unrecognizable. HE'S OFF COURSE.

But ANDY CLOSES HIS EYES, focusing. FLASHES OF ANDY AND MOM laughing together. At the amusement park. That special day.

And the flow of universes around him STEERS BACK ON TRACK.
More familiar places.

He's getting closer and closer. MORE FLASHES OF ANDY AND HIS
MOM. Eating cotton candy. Riding the roller coaster.

The pace of THE UNIVERSE FLOW ACCELERATES until there is a
sudden FLARE OF LIGHT.

And EVERYTHING STOPS...

Andy opens his eyes to see that he's standing in --

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- DAY

1950s music plays on the jukebox - a song that we all
actually recognize. Andy glances over the patrons at booths,
quietly eating their burgers and fries.

But one of them looks familiar... It's the DOUBLE OF MAVIR.
Eating a SUNDAE WITH EXTRA CHERRIES.

Andy lowers his Jumper. Takes a few tentative steps. Then he
sees --

A MISSING POSTER on the door. With HIS PHOTO on it.

CRASH! From behind him.

Andy snaps around to see Harry's astonished face, fallen
plates of food at his feet.

HARRY
Are you... You?

Andy looks at his name tag. It actually reads "Harry."

ANDY
Are we... Are we at war with anyone?

HARRY
Not officially.

ANDY
Are humans at the top of the food
chain?

HARRY
For better or worse.

ANDY
Who's the leader of this country?

HARRY
Still Trump.

ANDY
(sighs)
I guess I can live with that.

Harry smiles.

HARRY
Welcome home, kid.
(toughens up)
You ran out of vacation days a long
time ago.

Andy can't wipe the smile off his face.

EXT. MAIN STREET, SUTTON -- DAY

Andy RUNS TOWARDS TOWN, passing the weathered sign that reads, "WELCOME TO SUTTON." He slaps the side of it as he goes by, letting out a LOUD CHEER. Thrilled to be back.

He runs down main street, beaming at all the familiar places. "Mindy's Cafe." "Miller's Guns." Both liquor stores. The marquee on the movie theater now reads, "Spider-Man 8: The Return."

Then he notices a MISSING POSTER WITH HIS PHOTO in a shop window. THEY'RE IN EVERY SHOP WINDOW. ON EVERY LAMP POST.

Several PASSERSBY double take as he runs by.

PASSERSBY
Is that... / Oh my God, he's alive!

EXT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- DAY

Andy runs towards his house. Even in all its simplicity and disrepair, it has never looked so good.

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Andy hurries through the door and looks around. The house is still a mess. But something feels different about it...

The sound of a voice leads him into the DINING ROOM, where he is astonished to see --

The room has been turned into "Find Andy" Mission Control. Stacks of Missing Person fliers. A banner signed by tons of volunteers. Maps of the state and country covered with pins.

His dad sits at the table, focused on a laptop with a phone to his ear. He's still scraggly and unshaven. But there's a sense of determination in him that wasn't there before. The desperate determination of a father who misses his son.

CHARLIE (INTO PHONE)
Yes, I understand that his story has
already been featured on your
newscast, so all I'm asking for is an
update, get his picture on the air,
anything --

ANDY
Dad?

Charlie turns. He drops his phone on sight of his son and springs out of his chair, knocking it over. He stares at Andy, not believing his eyes.

And in this moment, Andy realizes just how much pain he's caused him.

ANDY
I'm so, so sorry.

Charlie wraps Andy up in the tightest hug he's ever felt.

CHARLIE
I missed you so much.

Andy holds him close. It's good to be home.

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Andy walks into his room and looks around. Everything just as he left it. The art on the walls. The books on the shelf.

He steps over to his desk, opens the drawer, and gazes down at the framed photo of him and his mom on the roller coaster. His salvation.

Andy picks it up. Then he takes another picture off the wall over his desk, and hangs the framed photo of his mom right in the center for him to see. That's where she belongs.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY -- DAY

Andy strides down the familiar hall. All eyes are on him in shocked disbelief.

STUDENTS
Oh my god, Andy?! / Welcome back,
man. / So glad you're okay. / I
thought you were dead.

Andy ad libs hellos. He's not a face in the crowd anymore.

Kyle comes running down the hall towards him.

KYLE
Andy?! Jesus Christ, man! Where the
hell have you been?!

Andy shrugs, keeping his cool.

ANDY
I just said screw it.

KYLE
You just said screw it?

ANDY
Yeah. You should try it too.

Up ahead, Andy sees Piper walking with her group of friends. The real Piper. The one he's always loved.

She stops upon seeing him.

PIPER (O.S.)
Andy?! Oh my God!

She rushes over and practically tackles him with a hug. A warm welcome that makes him smile, but there's something more pressing on his mind. He gently pushes her back.

ANDY
Piper, there's something I have to tell you. I want you to know that... You're dizzy.

PIPER
What?

ANDY
You're great. You're the best you. And don't let anyone ever tell you otherwise.

And with that, he turns and walks off down the hall, leaving everyone standing there. *Huh?*

PIPER
Andy, wait! What happened to you? Where have you been?

Andy looks back. Everyone stares, waiting for an explanation.

ANDY (V.O.)
So here's a what if... What if you disappear without a trace for months on end, and then you show up out of the blue, and everyone wants to know what happened to you. What do you do?
(beat)
Well in my case, I told the truth. I went on a mind bending journey across parallel universes in search of a deeper sense of happiness and meaning, and ultimately decided to come back. So... Mostly the truth.
(beat)
And then I got sent to lots and lots of therapy.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy is in his waiter uniform once again, moving through the diner, right at home.

ANDY (V.O.)
But after a while, everything settled back to normal, like I'd never left.
(MORE)

ANDY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I was even able to catch up on my
classes and graduate on time. And
through it all, there was only one
person who believed every single word
that I said...

HARRY
Order up!

Andy takes the burgers from Harry and delivers them to a
table of TRAVELERS.

ANDY
Can I get you anything else?

TRAVELER
Do you have any uchabeck?

ANDY
Sure thing.

He grabs ketchup off an adjacent table and hands it over.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- LATER

Andy sits at the counter, on his break. He eats a
frazbursnakle, drinks a root beer float, and draws on his
tablet. It's a guide to this universe. His home.

He comes to the "What To Do" section... And stares at it,
thinking about it for the first time.

Harry comes out of the kitchen and wipes down the counter.

ANDY
Hey Harry... What's cool to do around
here?

HARRY
(confused)
What's cool to do around here?

ANDY
Yeah. You know, why'd you choose to
live in this universe over all the
others out there?

HARRY
What are you talking about? This is
my universe.

ANDY
Wait, seriously? You've been running
this place for all these years and
you never left?

HARRY
Never even thought about it.

ANDY
How could you have never even thought
about traveling?

Harry smirks.

HARRY
I never said I didn't travel, kid.

HARRY'S OFFICE

Harry opens the door and Andy peers into a small, cramped office with invoices and receipts piled high on the desk.

But the walls are FILLED WITH PHOTOS. Tons of photos. HARRY WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS in exotic locales ALL OVER THE WORLD.

HARRY
You ask what's cool to do around
here? Kid, what isn't cool to do
around here?

Andy ogles the photos, jaw hanging open.

Harry in Tokyo. Berlin. Paris. Chicago. Machu Picchu. Angkor Wat. At temples in Greece and India. In front of pyramids, Egyptian and Mayan. Holding exotic animals in the Outback and jungle. Atop skyscrapers and in underground caverns.

HARRY
It's a huge world out there. And
you've got your whole life ahead of
you. So live the hell out of it.

He heads back into the diner. Andy's eyes wander over all of the photos of Harry filling the walls. He's been everywhere.

A life well lived.

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- LATER

Most of the travelers are gone now. Just a few regulars, including Mavir eating another cherry-covered sundae.

Andy's eyes drift fondly over the empty diner. The counter, stools, neon signs. His home away from home. He sighs.

Then removes his apron. Pulls off his hat. Walks up to Harry, who's wiping down an already spotless table.

ANDY
Harry, it's been a blast working
here. But it's time for me to go.

He holds out his apron and hat.

HARRY
Like I said, kid. It's best I work
nights alone.

Harry takes the uniform. Then cracks a smile.

HARRY

But for what it's worth, if I had an employee of the month, you'd be it.

ANDY

Thanks, Harry. Oh, one more thing...

Andy picks up his bag and pulls out a printed TRAVEL GUIDE. He hands it to Harry. In the "What To Do" section it simply reads, "Everything!" Harry smiles.

Andy extends his hand.

ANDY

And just so you know, you make the best damn burgers in the multiverse.

HARRY

Thanks, kid. But I already knew that.

Harry proudly shakes his hand.

Andy heads towards the door, but stops next to Mavir's table. The old man looks up at him, not knowing Andy's history with his other self.

Andy pulls out the Jumper and Headset that brought him home. Sets them on the table in front of Mavir.

ANDY

Here. Focus on your best memory with her, and this will take you home.

Mavir eyes him with disbelief... And hope.

ANDY

And after you get back, give it to the next person who needs it.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Andy steps outside. With a deep breath, he walks away without looking back.

ANDY (V.O.)

And that's why I, Aaron Anders, left Zarry's All-Night Zamburgers. No more what if's... Just what's next.

CUT TO:

INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP -- NIGHT

The walls are lined with comic books and memorabilia. Andy, now in his early 20s, reads at a podium in front of a SMALL GATHERING OF PEOPLE. GLOSSY POSTERS stand behind him with comic imagery from "AARON ANDERS: ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE."

ANDY
I don't miss the multiverse. But I
definitely miss the burgers.

He closes the graphic novel as those in attendance applaud respectfully. Amongst them is his dad, beaming with pride. Charlie looks like a new person, clean shaven, put together, a spark in his eye.

The crowd disperses and several EAGER KIDS approach Andy.

KID
So wait, is Zarry's a real place?

ANDY
I don't know. What do you think?

The kid isn't so sure.

ANDY
Tell ya what. If you ever find it,
make sure you order the
frazbursnakle. I hear it's dizzy.

KID 2
But what do you think Zarry will do
now that Aaron Anders left the diner?

The thought makes Andy smile.

ANDY
My guess is, Zarry will probably just
keep doing what he does best.

CUT TO:

INT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

A bumping night, with a diner full of TRAVELERS from every universe under the sun. Dino wranglers. Goths. Hazmats. Vikings. And everyone in between.

Harry emerges from the kitchen carrying a tray full of food. He weaves in and out of the commotion to deliver them to hungry guests, who waste no time digging in.

This is his element. This is his home.

EXT. HARRY'S ALL-NIGHT HAMBURGERS -- NIGHT

Laughter and music filter out. More travelers emerge from thin air and walk through the diner's doors. Eager to swap stories, have some laughs, and eat frazbursnakles. Above it all, the neon sign glows brightly in the darkness.

Just another night at Harry's All-Night Hamburgers.

FADE OUT.